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18

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

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BERSERK 18

BY

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三浦建太郎

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BERSERK

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CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
KUSHAN SCOUTS, PART 1

断罪篇
生誕祭の章 クシャーン斥候①

HEH HEH

YO, KID. HAND THAT OVER AND SCRAM.

WHY DON'TCHA TRY FINDIN' YER OWN?! GROWN-UPS AIN'T SUPPOSED TO STEAL FROM KIDS!! YOU MAKE ME *SICK!!*

TAKE A HIKE!! THIS'S THE ONLY FOOD I'VE MANAGED TO GET IN FOUR DAYS!!

YOU AN' YER BIG HEAD ...

...LOOKIN' LIKE A *RETARDED TODDLER!*

WHY DON'T I MAKE SURE YOU NEVER BECOME ONE OF THOSE SICKENING GROWN-UPS? RIGHT HERE AND NOW. *HUH*, PUNK?

*HMMM

THAT FROM A SNEAK THIEF?

I...

...SAY TO MYSELF, DEEP DOWN.

...

...

NOT BAD... THERE'S EVEN LIQUOR.

...

F-FOOD!

I CAN HEAR YOU, Y'KNOW.

YEAH, DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS. HERE.

I DON'T WANNA DIE BEFORE KNOWIN' A WOMAN.

SEEIN' THIS MUCH FOOD LEFT BEHIND, THE FOLKS FROM THIS VILLAGE MUST'VE *REALLY* BEEN IN A HURRY TO LEAVE.

ALL THANKS TO THE KUSHAN.

ドサ..

*FX: THUD

THOSE'RE THE RATIONS I SCRAPED TOGETHER TRYIN' LIKE HELL TO EVADE THE KUSHAN. AT LEAST TAKE THE TIME TO SAVOR 'EM.

HEHEH... IS THAT SO?

UGH...!

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY, JUST GET...

IS IT GOOD?

YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T GET ANY.

KID, WHAT'D YOU... OOO!!

THIS STUFF REALLY **WORKS**... SURE WAS EXPENSIVE.

*FX: GEHHH

H-HEY, WHAT GIVES?!

?!

*FX: SHUMP

YUCK YUCK YUCK

*KASHANNG

I DON'T LIKE BEIN' MADE FUN OF, SEE? NOT BY OVERGROWN JERKS LIKE YOU GUYS.

MY SHARE'S RIGHT HERE.

*SHA

I'M GONNA CRACK YER HEAD OPEN!!

GWAH!

*BLAP

L-LITTLE PUNK...

*BCHONNNG

HAO!

BGO...!

THE NAME'S *ISIDRO.*

DON'T CALL ME "PUNK."

YOU GUYS SHOULD TAKE THIS CHANCE TO QUIT THIS GIG AND GO STRAIGHT.

RELAX, IT'S *NON-LETHAL* POISON. YOU'LL LIVE. I THINK.

YOU REALLY *SUCK*, TO BE PREACHED AT BY A KID.

*FX: AMBLE AMBLE

½" ½"

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED?!

ENEMIES ?!

EVERY-BODY'S DOWN!

ADIOS.

SEE YA.

I REALLY DO WANNA CRY!!

WAHHH!!

I WASH SHO SHCARRRED!!

THERE'S *MORE* OF 'EM?!

OH, *CRAP* !!

WHAT THE--?! WHAT HAPPENED ?!

WHO'RE YOU, KID?!

WAS IT THE KU-SHAN ?!

CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN... THINK... THINK...

*TWITCH
ピク ピク

THIS IS *BAD*, MAN...

N-NO... HE DID IT...

*STOMP
ドゴ

WHAT DO WE DO?!

THE KLISHAN ARMY CAME...!!

IT'S THE KLISHAN!!

WHAT ?!

MORONS.

フン、フン

*FX: SNEAK SNEAK

WE AIN'T GOT TIME TO STAND AROUND!!

BUT WHERE ARE THEY...?

I-IF WE DON'T GET AWAY QUICK...

AND LOOK. THE GUYS ON THE GROUND DON'T HAVE ANY SWORD WOUNDS.

THIS'S PRETTY WEIRD. IF THE KUSHAN ARMY *WAS* HERE, HOW COME WE DIDN'T HEAR HOOVES?

HOLD UP, BOY.

.....

AND YEAH, HEY...

.....

SO, WHERE ARE THE KLISHAN?

THE KLISHAN DON'T SHOW MERCY, EVEN TO KIDS.

HMM...

CRAP, CRAP, I'M DEAD!

AH... WELL LOOK, I'M A CHILD.

WHO'RE YOU, BOY? IF THE KLISHAN CAME, WHY'RE *YOU* THE ONLY ONE ALL RIGHT?

I'LL HAVE TO DISTRACT 'EM AND TAKE OFF!

O--! OVER THERE...!!

*FX: SHUNK

UH?

WE'RE SURROUNDED !!

K-KUSHAN!! THEY'RE KUSHAN SCOUTS !!

WH- WHO'RE THEY?! WHEN DID THEY...?!

F-FOR REAL ?!

*CHAK CHAK

*SS

*SS

S- SON OF A BITCH!!

*LEAP

*LEAP

TH-THEY WANNA FIGHT!!

L-LET'S RUN!!

TOO LATE!!

*ZHA

*ZHA

*ZHA

*ZHA

*ZHA

*SHA

UWOH ...!!

*CHONK

*FX: SHUNK

*FX: BACHING

*FX: CHINNNG

Y-YOU BASTARDS!

N-N-N...

...NO FRIGGIN' WAAAY!!

*GSHANG

*ZHA

ALL DEAD...!!

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...!!

カチャ

*GCHAK

カチャ

*GCHAK

*WOOOO

ゴゴゴ

*FX: GCHAK GCHAK

*FX: GCHAK GCHAK

*FX: WHISPER

*FX: JAK

*FX: CHAK

ガチャ

ガチャ

*FX: GCHAK GCHAK

*FX: SFF SFF

*FX: SFF SFF

DOESN'T HE KNOW HE'S ABOUT TO GET KILLED?!

WHAT'S HE THINKIN' ?!

*FX: GCHAK GCHAK

ガチャ

ガチャ

*FX: ZHA ZHA ZHA ZHA ZHA ZHA

*FX: GSHAK

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　クシャーン斥候②

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
KUSHAN SCOUTS, PART 2

BERSERK

BOMF

*FX: GSSH DOLCH DOLCH

...SUDDEN?

WASN'T THAT A BIT...

DIDN'T THINK I'D GET TO TRY IT OUT SO SOON.

*ZHA

...HE LEFT THOSE KUSHAN MONSTERS IN PIECES!!

IN ONE SWING...

IS IT... A SWORD ?!

WH-WH-WH-WHAT'S THAT FRIGGIN' HUGE THING?!

*GCHAK

HEY, CLEAR THE ROAD. I'M IN A HURRY.

WHO *ARE* YOU PEOPLE?

*GCHAK

AND HE DON'T EVEN KNOW!

...

...

!

!

*TMP

HE'S A WALKING WEAPON ...

AN IRON FIST ...!!

NO NEED FOR TALK, *HUH?*

*KRONK

HEY, PUNK.

GEEZ, THIS IS THE PROBLEM WITH KIDS!

HERE! HEAD DOWN AND DON'T MOVE!

...

...

!?!

*CHOK

*CHING

*HYNN

*HYNN

*SHROK

*LEAP

*JUMP

*SHA

*SHA

*SHA

*WHACK

*WHAM

*SHF SHF

*WHUMP

ドチャ

*SMP

*SMP

OH CRAP, HE'S SURROUNDED!!

*FX: TENSE

*FX: SNIFF SNIFF

*FX: SHA

*FX: STAB

*GACHINNNG

*CHNK CHNK

*DLCH BISH BISH GSSH

*VNN

*ZSSH

HEY, KID. YOU'VE GOT FOOD ON YA. LIQUOR, TOO.

A...

I CAN SMELL THAT YOU'RE HIDIN' 'EM.

NICE...

A...

THEY'LL DO AS THANKS, SO DON'T SWEAT IT.

THE KIND OF WORK I'D *EXPECT* FROM GODO.

AWE-SOMMMME!

LET'S GET GOING, PUCK.

*STAGGER

*CLATA

J-JUST A SEC...

WHO IS THAT?!

*FX: GCHAK GCHAK

THIS WORTHLESS CRAP ATE UP TIME.

*TCH

WHO WERE THOSE GUYS?

THEY LOOKED LIKE PEOPLE I'VE SEEN BEFORE...

.....

.....

.....

.....

IT'S NOT MY INTENT TO LET A WITNESS LIVE, BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR FURTHER SACRIFICES.

OUR DUTY AS *BAKIRAKA* IS TO SCOUT.

LET-TING HIM GO NOW?

IS THIS ACCEPTABLE, YOUNG MASTER?

I DON'T MIND.

*master of Tapas, a yogic practice that releases *kundalini* energy, which can be used to force boons from the gods

...BUT NOT WITHOUT SUFFERING LOSSES.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BEAT HIM...

YOUNG MASTER, DO YOU KNOW THAT MAN?

DON'T UNDERESTI-MATE HIM.

BUT, WITH OUR POWER AS *TAPASA**...

A VERY LONG...

...TIME AGO...

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...

SEARCH FOR THE *LAND OF ORACLE.*

REGARDLESS, THERE IS BUT ONE THING WE MUST DO NOW.

FASTER
!!

FASTER
!!

HURRY
!!

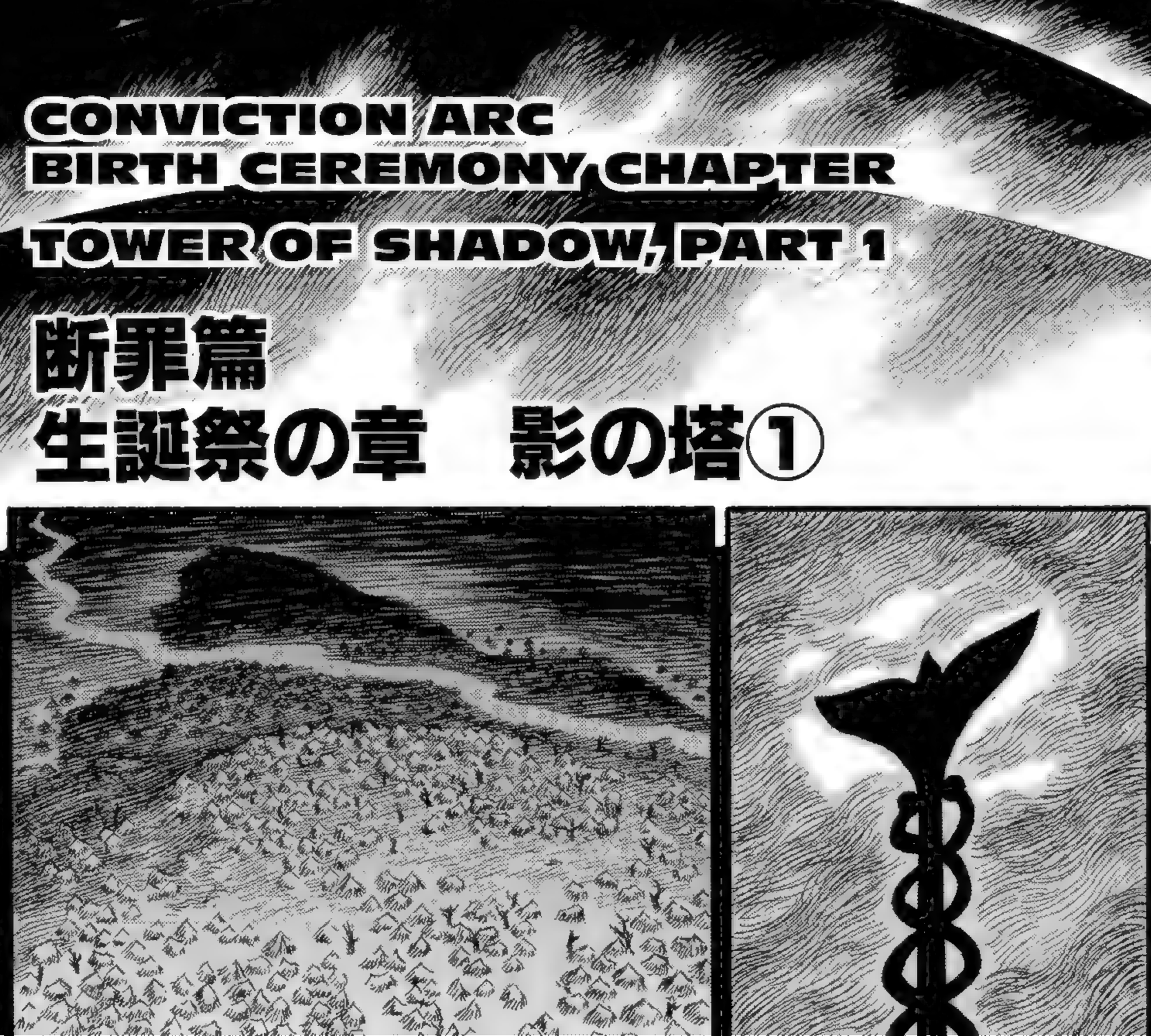
CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER :
KUSHAN SCOUTS (2): END

*GOHHH OHHH

ゴゴゴゴゴ・・・

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
TOWER OF SHADOW, PART 1

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　影の塔①



*FX: FLAPA FLAPA

AGAIN ...

ANOTHER PRIEST...

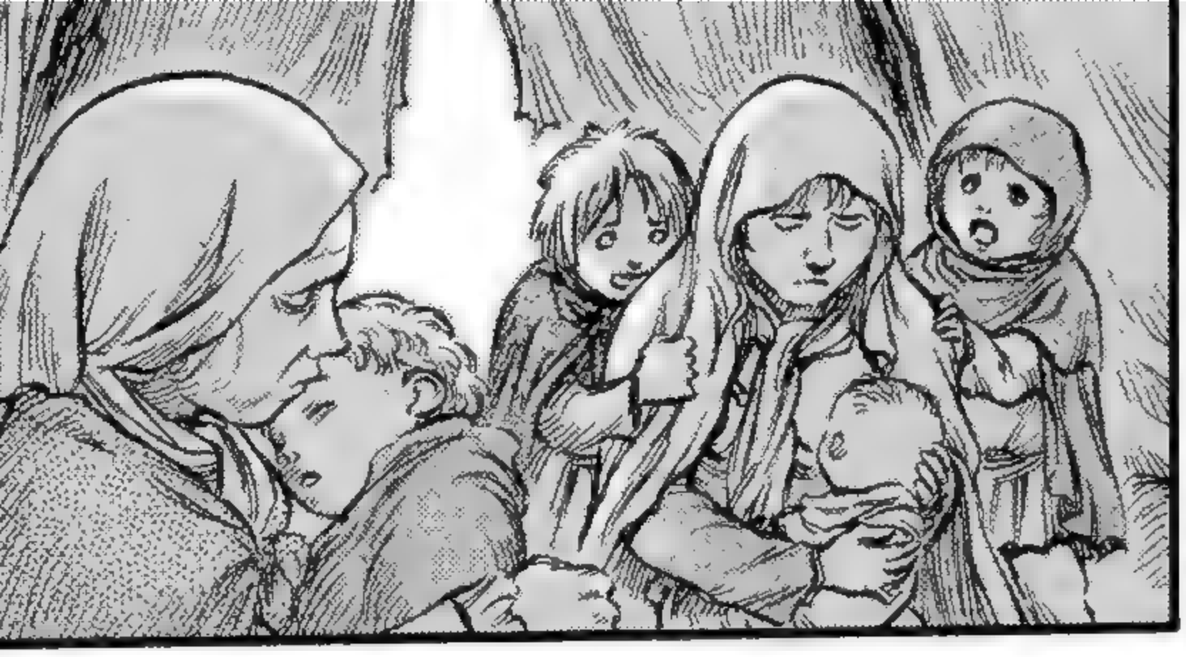
HERE-TICS...

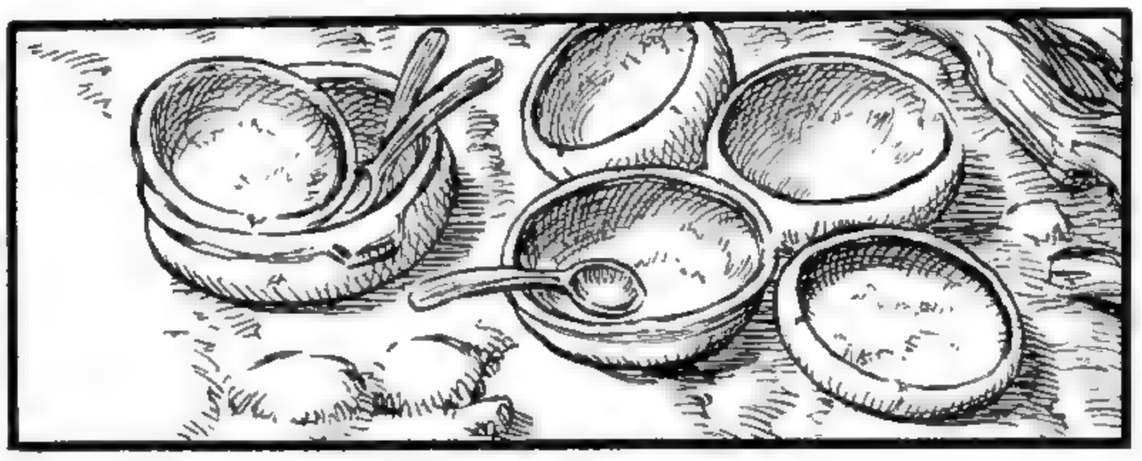
THE WORK OF HERETICS.

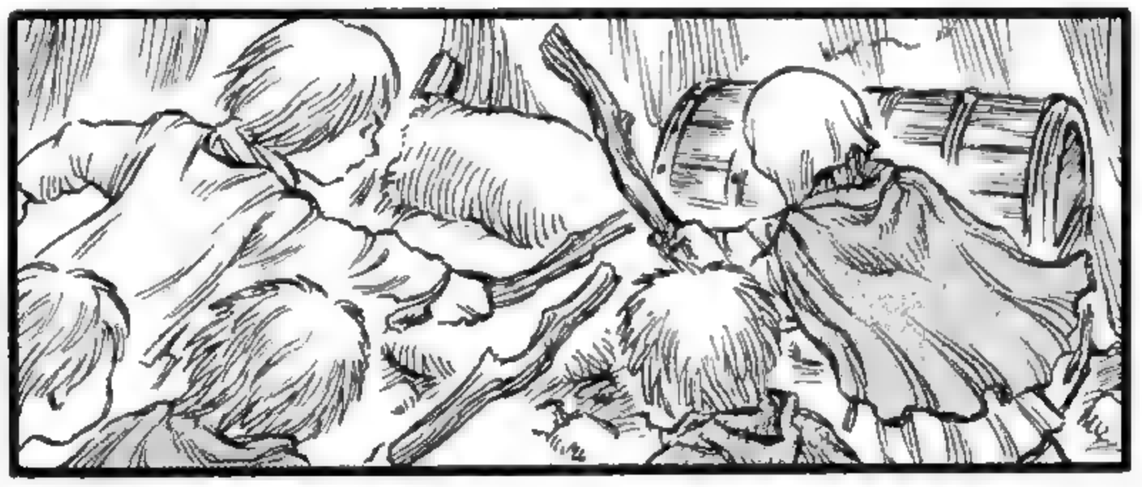
*FX: BYEWWWWW

SHH!

HERETIC HUNTS WILL AGAIN SCOURGE--







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ガラ

カ" カ" カ" カ" カ。

カ" 。 カ" 。 。

*FX: CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

*FX: SHUFFLE

!

ﾘ" ﾘ"
。 。

CHARITY IS RATIONED TO EACH OF YOU EVERY DAY!!

F-FOOLS!! THESE ARE OFFERINGS TO THE MONASTERY !!

ALMS...

PLEASE, ALMS...

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

PLEASE HAVE MERCYYY !

*RUMMAGE

S-STOP THAT!!

HAVE MERCYYY !

*RUMMAGE

THAT VEGETABLE SCRAP SOUP AIN'T ENOUGH!!

I BET YOU PEOPLE EAT YOUR FILL EVERY DAY!!

THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS!!

OH, NO!!

*FX: BDUMP BDUMP

!

SEIZE THEM ALL!! LET NONE ESCAPE!!

*FX: BDADUMP BDADUMP

*FX: WAHHHHH

THIS IS ALL OF THEM.

IS *THIS* WHAT BELIEVERS DO?!

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE THINKING, LAYING HANDS ON OFFERINGS TO THE TEMPLE?!

YOU ***AREN'T*** THE ONLY ONES SUFFERING !!

WE'VE CALLED ON THE ***HOLY SEE*** FOR PROVISIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND OTHER COMMO-DITIES!!

MOST OF THE TREES AROUND HERE'VE BEEN CUT DOWN. WE HAVEN'T FIREWOOD FOR THE WINTER...

THERE ARE SICK...

WE'VE ONLY HAD WATERY SOUP FOR DAYS!

OUR BODIES JUST CAN'T TAKE THIS.

HE NEEDS GOD'S DIVINE PROTECTION!!

HE'S ON THE BRINK OF DEATH!

THIS CHILD... HASN'T EVEN STRENGTH LEFT TO NURSE!

I BEG YOU!

WHAT...?

!

VERY WELL, THEN.

*FX. CLOP CLOP

...GOD SHALL SHOW HIS MERCY.

IN LIGHT OF YOUR BOLDNESS...

...THAT SHE BROKE THE LAW FOR HER OWN CHILD, AND THAT SHE WAS CAPTURED BEFORE ME ARE SURELY ALL BY GOD'S GUIDANCE.

BUT THE FACTS THAT I HAPPENED TO BE HERE...

I HAVE CONSIDERED THAT TOO, NATURALLY.

FATHER MOZGUS, BUT WHAT OF DISCIPLINE ...?

HER SELF-SACRIFICING PURE LOVE SHALL FIND REWARD.

I SAY LOVE NEED NOT KNOW FEAR.

THESE WILL COME TO THE MONASTERY FOR NOW.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THANK YOU!

*FX: CLAK CLAK CLAK

*FX SCATTER

.....

LEAD THEM THAT WAY.

YOU MUST COME HITHER.

DO NOT WORRY, YOU WILL SEE THEM AGAIN LATER.

HMM...

WITH REST AND NOURISHMENT, HE SHOULD RECOVER STRAIGHT AWAY.

HE SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED.

OH, YES ...!

THERE NOW, SWALLOW.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

HM ...

WHAT CAN I SAY...?

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I TOO HAVE SENT A LETTER REQUESTING AID TO THE HOLY SEE. IT SHOULD REACH THEM READILY.

ALSO, I WILL TRY TO CONVINCE THE ABBOT TO DIVIDE SOME PORTION OF THE OFFERINGS FROM BEFORE AMONGST THE REFUGEES.

...NOTHING BUT EXECUTE THE *WILL OF GOD.*

I DID...

.....

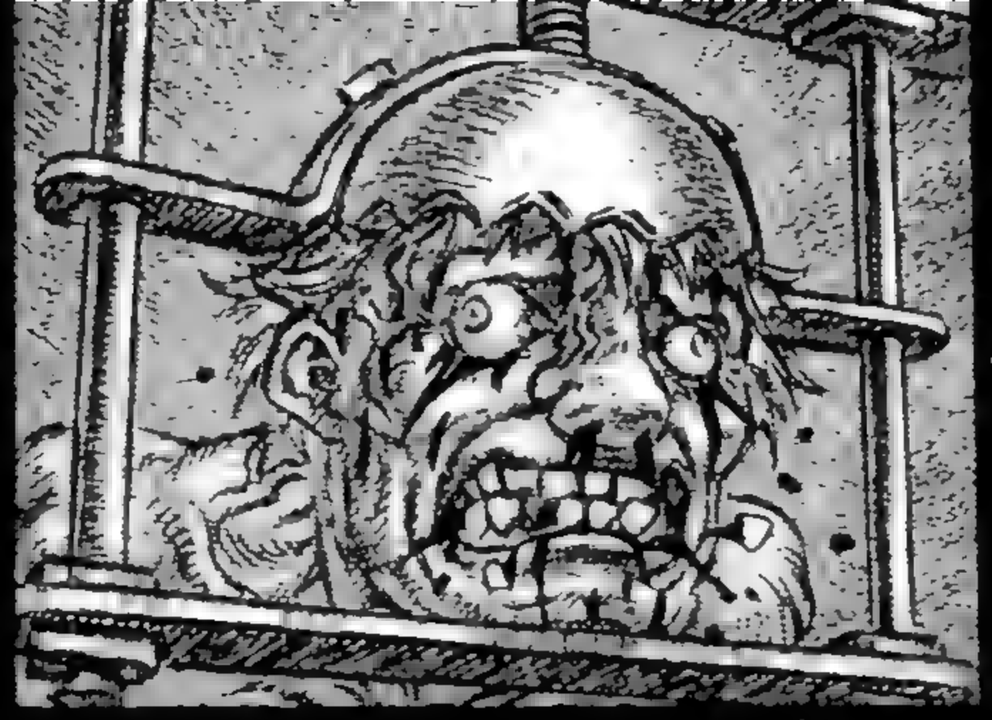
YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE AWAITS YOU.

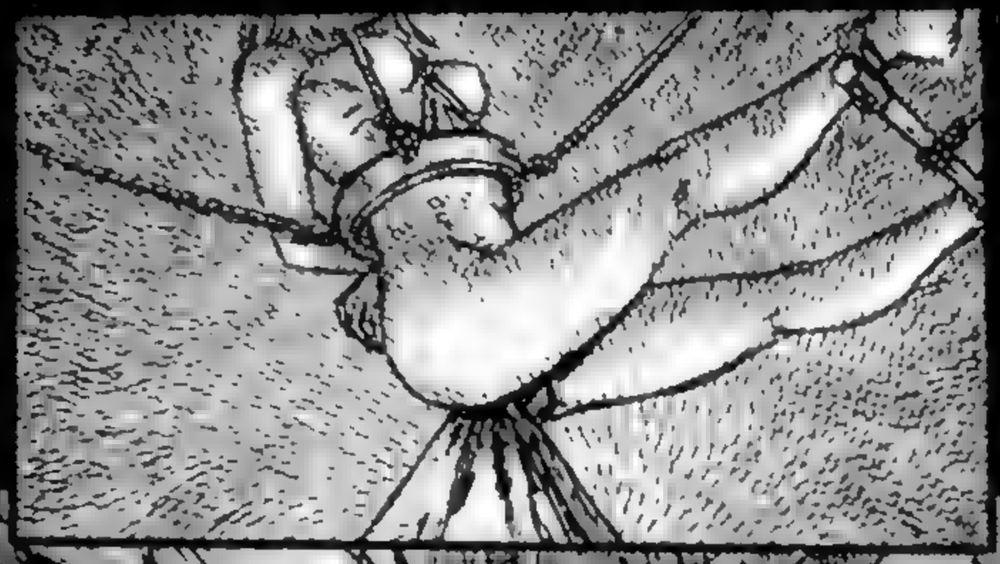
NOW, COME HITHER.

THE CHILD WILL BEAR THE WEIGHT OF *PAYMENT* LATER.

EH ...?

*FX: GREEEEE





THIS IS THE FIRST YOU HAVE SET FOOT IN THIS ROOM I BELIEVE, *MISS FARNESE.*

...
...
!!

*FX: GYAHHH HYEEEE GHEEEE NGAHHH AGGHHH AHAHH

THE GARDEN OF THIS HOLY HOUSE WHERE GOD'S WILL IS STUDIED... IT IS DEPLORABLE.

THIEVES, RAPISTS, MURDERERS...

THE ENVIRONS OF THIS *ALBION MONASTERY* COMPRISE NOW A DEN OF SINNERS.

...
HERETICS.

AND ABOVE ALL...

HIS MERCILESSLY FLAYED SKIN AND ROBES WERE HUNG UPON THE BOUGH OF A TREE.

RECENTLY, ANOTHER MONK WAS MURDERED IN THE REFUGEE SLUM.

...WE WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE MANY SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUALS. UPON INQUISITION, MORE AND MORE OF THEM ARE CONFESSING TO BEING HERETICS.

THANKS TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ZEALOUS BELIEVERS AND THE DEVOTED WORK OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS...

AND MANY AMONG THOSE HAVE BECOME CONVERTS. HOW *TRULY* DELIGHTFUL.

*FX: AIIEEE

THOU SHALT NOT AVERT THINE EYES.

GOD DOES NOT RAIN BENEVOLENCE ALONE UPON THIS EARTH. HE IS ALSO A ***STRICT*** ARBITER.

THIS ***HELLISH*** SPECTACLE IS ONE ASPECT OF THE HOLY SEE TO WHICH YOU BELONG.

IGH...

YOUR LOVE AND COURAGE, WHICH LED YOU TO VIOLATE THE LAW WHILE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR CHILD, SHOULD BE ***EXTOLLED...***

...BUT SIN IS SIN!!

*FX: CLAP *FX: FLINCH

THOU SHALT NOT FLEE!!

*SOB

I DO SO WANT YOU TO OVERCOME THIS TRIAL PROVIDED BY GOD!!

YOU POSSESS SUCH COURAGE !!

*FX: JSSHHH

*FX: GYAHHHH

BEHOLD!! SEE HOW YOUR BRETHREN HAVE WAITED ANXIOUSLY FOR YOU!!

THOU SHALT NOT FEAR!!!

ENTRUST *ALL* INTO THE LORD'S HANDS!!

...
...
!!

N...

NO...!

カチャ

カチャ

*FX: SSSSS

*FX: KCHAK KCHAK

AIE!
AIEEE!!

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
TOWER OF SHADOW, PART 2

*CAWWW

*CAWWW

*CAWWW

*CAWWW

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　影の塔②

THERE WAS EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY OF THE CRIME ITSELF!! WE WILL INVESTIGATE THAT NEXT!!

I AIN'T NO HERETIC!

L-LEMME GO! I AIN'T KILLED NO PRIESTS...!

THAT ISN'T TRUE! IF YOU'RE PROVEN INNOCENT, YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY ...

SAVE YOUR ROT!! THERE AIN'T A *ONE* WHO'S COME BACK SAFE *YET!!*

!!

*FX: HA!

ALMS...

*FX: STAGGER

ALMS...

OH, LORD...

.....

GODDAMMIT!! WHO DID THIS?!

WHO SET ME UP?!

I'LL KILL YOU...!!

WHEN I COME BACK, I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!!

BRING HIM ALONG.

GAHHH!

IT'S BECAUSE HE DIDN'T FIT IN WITH THE REST, SO IT'S GOOD RIDDANCE FOR HIM. DAMN, BOTH THE RATS *AND* THE SCAPEGOATS MAKE ME WANT TO VOMIT.

THAT GUY LIVED OFF THE FEARS OF OTHER PEOPLE AROUND HERE.

AH, WELL ...

DAMN YOUUU...

HEY, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FOCUS.

OH! WHOOPS, I'M SORRY.

IT'S NOT THAT. YOU'RE SPECIAL-- YOU COME HERE THIS WAY EVERY DAY.

GLAD I'M NOT JUST A JOB.

YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS ARE HARD AT WORK OUT THERE...

...BUT YOU'RE HERE EVEN BEFORE SUNSET...

YOU DON'T LIKE IT ?

IS THIS OKAY, THOUGH?

"SHE'S NOT AS SKILLED AS A MAN, NOR DOES SHE EXCEL IN COMMAND."

"WELL, IT *IS* TRADITION THAT THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS BE A WOMAN, BUT IF SHE'S ORNAMENTAL, I WISH SHE'D TRY HARDER TO *ACT* LIKE IT."

"SHE OPENS HER MOUTH AND IT'S DUTY, FAITH, OR SOME CRAZY ORDER..."

"...AND SHE DOESN'T GIVE US A WORD OF THANKS."

I WORRY THAT YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE.

THAT LADY COMMANDER SEEMS FRIGHTENING, THOUGH.

I DON'T LIKE THE COMMANDER ...

NONE OF US DO.

I'M SURE IT'S PRETTY...

... HARD.

THE ONLY WOMAN AMONG A BUNCH OF MEN...

AH...

I CAN'T SEE WHY THEY WORK SO HARD AT THIS TWISTED DUTY.

YOU LIBERTINE ...

AHHHH!

GWAHH!

UH-OH.

HAHH! THAT SCARED ME LIMP...

SORRYYY. SHE'S MY... LITTLE SISTER.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IN HERE! GEEZ!

ELAINE! THIS IS THE WORK TENT.

SORRY. I'LL GIVE YOU A FREEBIE NEXT TIME!

I GUESS I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

THAT'S A PITY...

SYPHILIS... SHE HAD SOME BAD LUCK. IT'S ALREADY STARTED SHOWING ON HER FACE.

SHE... SHE NEEDS 'EM FOR THE JOB.

WHAT'S WITH THE BANDAGES ?

HERE, THE USUAL FEE.

AND THEN THIS...

WOW! PRETTYYY!

MAYBE I'VE JUST *DONE* ENOUGH.

NOTHING THE MASSES COULD AFFORD.

IT'S *PRETTY* EXPEN-SIVE.

...BUT ISN'T IT KINDA WASTED ON ME?

I MEAN, THESE ARE PEARLS ...

I'M GLAD ...

...BUT HEY, NOBLES EVERYWHERE HAVE THEIR MISTRESSES. I'LL SET YOU UP IN LUXURY.

AS THE NEXT HEAD OF MY FAMILY, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MARRY YOU...

ONCE MY DUTY HERE IS THROUGH, I'LL TAKE YOU BACK HOME WITH ME.

THOUGH I WON'T HOLD MY BREATH...

THANK YOU, JEROME.

*FX: ZHFF ZHFF

ズル。ズル。

WHAT'S SHE DOING ...?

GET HER A GOOD DOCTOR.

WE'LL BRING YOUR SISTER, TOO.

.....

*FX: SCRATCH

ポリ.

...I'D *NEVER* MAKE IT AS A PROSTI-TUTE.

I SWEAR, IF I TOOK EVERY SWEET NOTHING I HEARD SERIOUSLY ...

YOU GUYS ...

WE HEARD THAT, LUCA.

HEYYY! HEYYY!

WHAT ARE YOU JOKING ABOUT? ISN'T IT BEST TO BE IN GOOD WITH THE OFFICIALS WHEN DANGER COMES? THAT WHY I SAY...

YOU KNOW ...?

I MEAN ...

RIIIGHT ...

THE BEST *YOU* COULD DO IS A SHOP APPREN-TICE.

I'D *LOVE* TO BE TOLD SOMETHING LIKE THAT BY SOMEONE. NOT EVEN NOBILITY, JUST A WEALTHY YOUNG MERCHANT.

LUCKY YOU, LUCA.

YEAH, YEAH.

SO, YEAH, LUCA...

AND THEN, THIS...

IF YOU INSIST!

I KNOW-- COME IN.

*FX: MNCH MNCH

*FX: ZHAA

DON'T EAT IT ALL AT ONCE.

WE KNOW, WE KNOW.

YOU ALWAYS SAVE US.

*FX: SNAP

WOW, THAT'S SO PRETTY.

OH, THAT KNIGHT GAVE *THAT* TO YOU?

WHAT A WASTE!

*FX: CLATA CLATA

WAHH!

BUT IT WAS FOR *YOU*, LUCA...

HUH?!

LISTEN TO ME. DIVIDE THE PEARLS UP EVENLY AMONG EVERYONE.

SOMETHING EXPENSIVE LIKE THIS...

YEAH...

BUT...

LISTEN, PEPE, FOUQUET, LUCIE.

LISTEN CLOSE.

DIDN'T WE DECIDE FROM THE START? EACH PERSON'S INCOME WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY AMONG US, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

I'LL TAKE AN EQUAL SHARE, OF COURSE.

IT'S A JOB THAT'S AT BEST SHUNNED AND SCORNED BY SOCIETY...

WE'RE PROSTITUTES.

...SO STIRRING UP COALS OF ENVY AND SUSPICION AMONGST EACH OTHER IS ***ABSURD.***

AT THE ***LEAST,*** WE NEED TO WATCH OURSELVES ***OUTSIDE...***

IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE TO BE BETRAYED BY SOMEONE AS A ***WITCH*** AT ANY MOMENT.

DO YOU GET HOW MUCH HARDER THAT MAKES IT FOR US TO SURVIVE?

...AND WE'RE WORKING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A HERETIC HUNT, Y'KNOW?

A SMALL DIFFERENCE MAKES THEM ANGRY AND HATEFUL.

SADLY, IT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR THOSE LIKE US WHO HAVE NOTHING...

PEOPLE ARE SHALLOW THINGS. IF ANYONE HAS EVEN A BIT MORE THAN THEY DO, THEY'RE JEALOUS, AND IF ONE HAS LESS, THEY LOOK DOWN ON HER.

...WE DO THIS EVERY DAY, TO PROVE WE AREN'T THAT WAY.

OUR TRUST IS BACKED UP BY ACTION.

YES! THAT'S WHY...

WE ALL...

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

YEAH.

WE SHARE A COMMON FATE.

THERE'S ***NO OTHER WAY*** FOR US TO ***SURVIVE*** HERE.

IF YOU DON'T WANNA BE RATTED ON, GET OUT THERE AND SPREAD SOME GOOD WILL AROUND!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? IT'S TO AVOID PETTY JEALOUSY. THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN THIS WORLD IS TO *HAVE TOO MUCH.*

YES, MA'AM.

HUH? ONE'S MISSING ...

WHAT A WASTE.

WHAT, *AGAIN?*

NOW, AS ALWAYS, WE'LL SHARE HALF OUR EARNINGS WITH THE NEIGHBORS.

PUH PUH

ONE, TWO, THREE.

*FX: SMEP

ビッ

*PTOO

*FX: CRNCH CRNCH

モゴ

モゴ

THAT'S NO GOOD. HAVE TO BIND THEM TIGHTER.

OOOO...

OH!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL, IF IT'S A BIT SNUG.

*FFF

YOU'RE JUST THE RIGHT VICTIM FOR THE STARVING MEN.

A DEFENSELESS BEALITY LIKE YOU WANDERING AROUND A PLACE LIKE THIS ISN'T SAFE FOR EVEN ONE DAY.

...BUT I WON'T MAKE YOU. I CAN'T FORCE YOU WITHOUT YOUR OWN CONSENT... NOT AS A FELLOW WOMAN.

I REALLY THINK THAT PEOPLE SHOULD WORK TO EARN THEIR OWN KEEP...

AH, YES, YES, A CUSTOMER. JUST A SEC.

LUCAAA ...

*FX: DEHEHEH

...IT LOOKS LIKE IT MEANS SOMETHING.

BESIDES, THE BRAND ON THIS GIRL'S CHEST...

SURE.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF EVERYONE'S MEAL, AND ELAINE.

NINA, I'M GOING TO DO ONE MORE JOB.

I CAN'T EVEN TELL THE OTHERS THAT MUCH. THAT ALONE COULD START A SCARE ABOUT IT BEING A WITCH'S MARK...

HE SAID TO DRINK A MOUTHFUL MORNING AND NIGHT.

I TOLD A DOCTOR CUSTOMER ABOUT YOU, AND HE GAVE ME THIS AS PAYMENT.

AND ALSO, THIS.

LUCA ...

TH-- THANKS.

.....

I'LL GO DRAW SOME WATER.

*FX: DEHEHEH

*FX: RAHHH RAHHH

!

ドガ。
*WHOCK
ヒュ
*BISH
カ"
*CRAK
YOU HERE-TIC!!
...
AHHH!
AHHH!
DON'T ASK, JUST THROW, QUICKLY!
THROW!
*FX. RAHHH RAHHH
OHHH...
.....

.....

.....

*KAWWW

*KAWWW

*KAWWW

*FLING

'TIS THE HAWK!!

AFTER IT REPELS THE BARBARIANS, IT SHALL LEAD US TO BE ONE NATION!!

THE HAWK SHALL ALIGHT!!

THE GODDESS OF FLAME'S REVELATION!

IT USED TO BE US POOR FOLK COULD GET ON WELL WITH THE PRIESTS, BUT EVER SINCE THIS HERESY BUSINESS SCARED EVERYONE OUT OF THEIR WITS...

IT'S A PITY.

FATHER, HUSH!

KAHHH! KAHHH!

ELAINE, DON'T.

AHHH!

GO AWAY! WHAT IF SOMEONE MISTAKES *US* FOR HERETICS, TOO?!

SHUT UP, OLD MAN!

NONE OF YOU MUST FORGET THIS!!

*FX BLASH BLASH

*FX. PLASH

*FX WHEW

.....

*PLCH

IT'S MIXED WITH PUS, TOO.

AND THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH IS SWOLLEN ...

THE BLEEDING WON'T STOP.

...I'M DONE FOR...

MAYBE ...

*FX: CLATA

...WITH THIS DISEASE, IF BAD BLOOD STARTS THROUGH MY HEAD, I'LL GO CRAZY.

WILL I BECOME LIKE YOU?

AUUH...

THE DOCTOR TOLD ME...

.....

*FX: KCHAK KCHAK

...FEAR ANYTHING?

ELAINE?

VUUH...

DO YOU NOT...

*FX: GONNNG GONNNG

...GRAVE AND TERRIBLE ?

...WHY DOES IT SEEM SO...

EVEN THOUGH GOD IS HERE...

...WE'RE IN THE SHADOW OF THAT TOWER ALMOST ALL DAY.

HERE ...

.....

*FX. CLUTCH

*FX: GONNNG

I'M SCARED ...

SCARED ...

...

...

I'M SCARED ...

SO SCARED...

I CAN'T STAND IT...

LUCAAA ...

OF THIS WORLD...

*KCHAK

カチャ

OF GOD...!!

OF DYING...

OF LIVING...

*GONNNG

ゴ"

*GONNNG

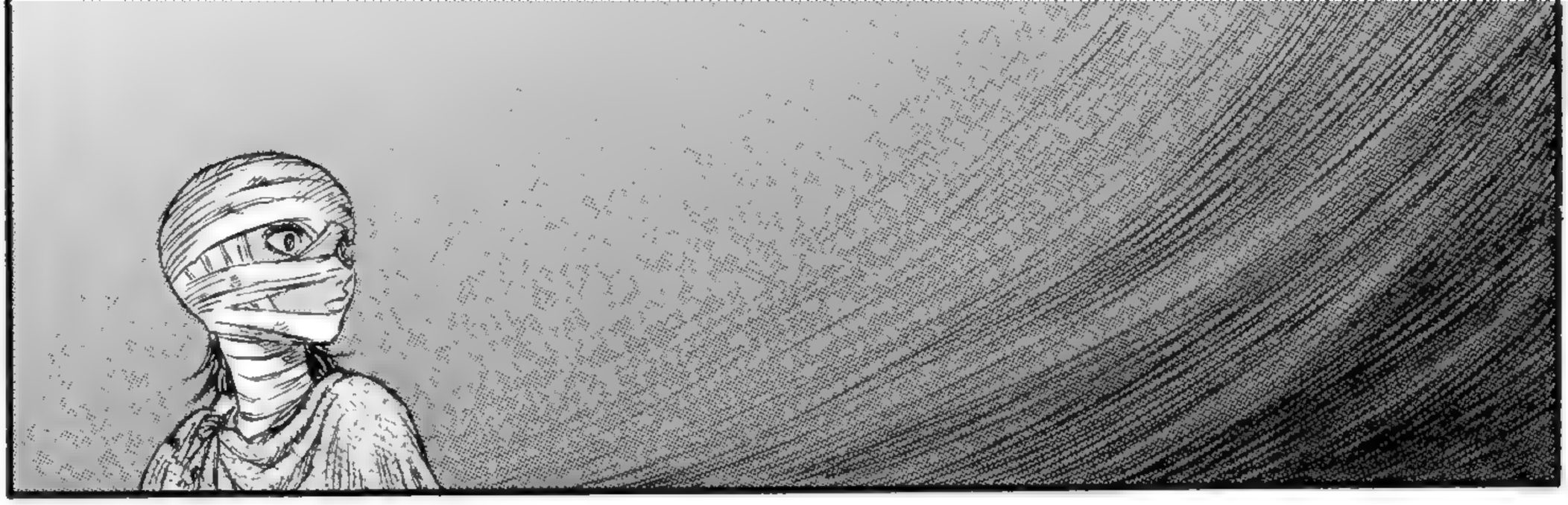
ゴ"

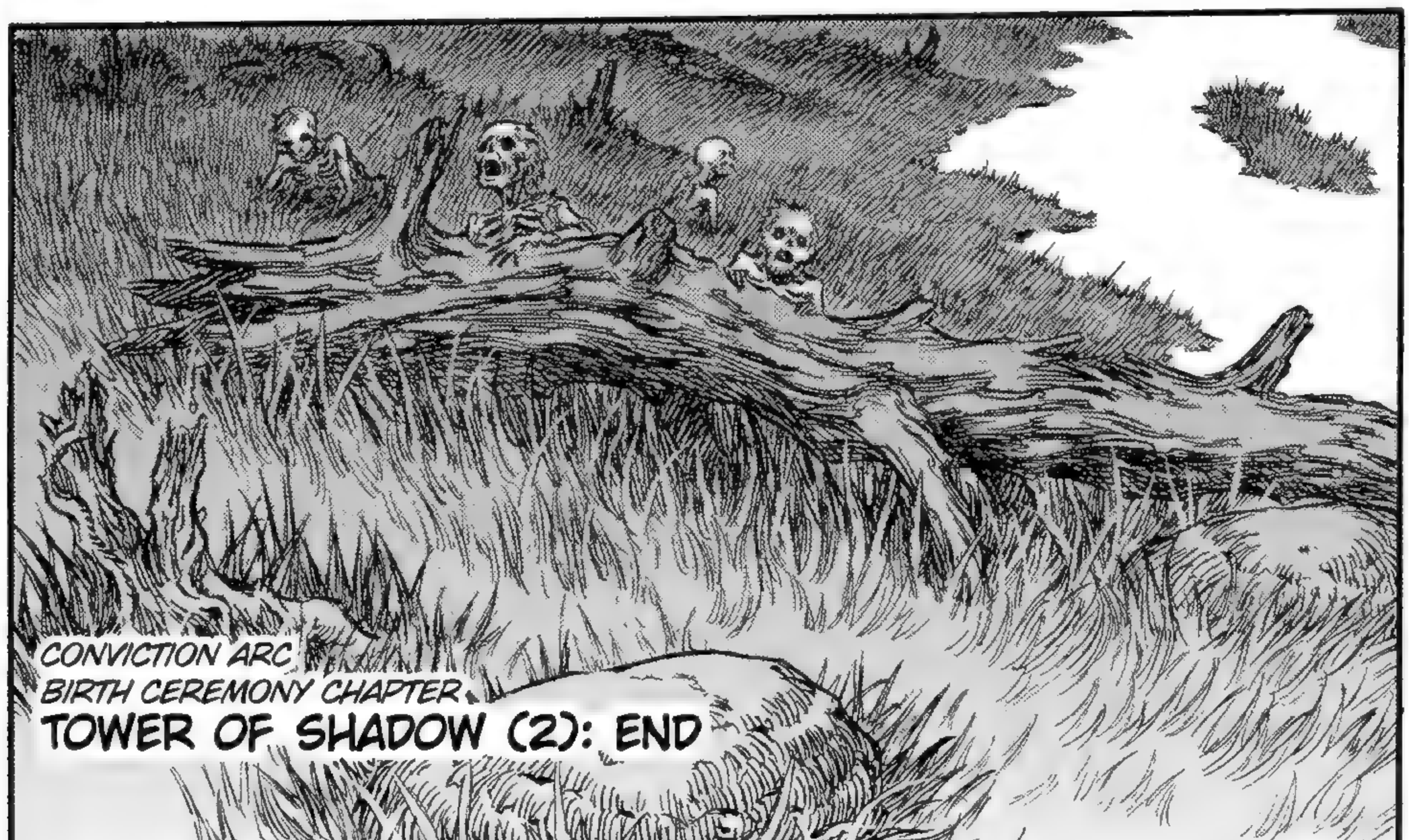
SO SCARED...

I CAN'T STAND IT...

...EVERY-THING.

OF...





CONVICTION ARC

BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER

TOWER OF SHADOW (2): END

BERSERK

GONNNG.

GONNNG.

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　影の子ら

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
CHILDREN OF SHADOW

SO COLD ...

...MY WARM BODY ?

WHERE IS...

SACRI-FICE.

GIVE BACK ...

... BODY ...

SACRI-FICE...

I KEPT PRAYING ...

PAIN ...

ANGUISH ...

THOUGH I PRAYED ...

I'M HUNGRY ...

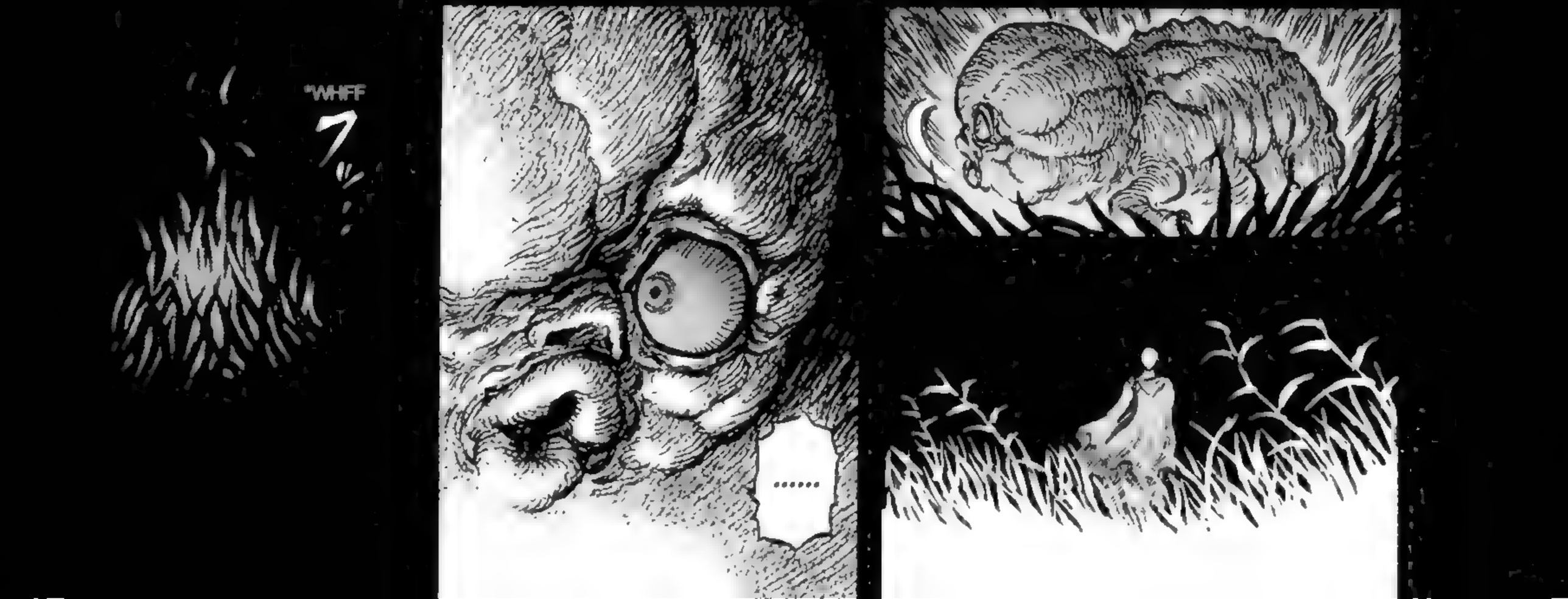
CURSE YOU...

CURSE YOU, GODDDD.

SACRI-FICE...

!
SACRI-
FICE.
WARM
...
BODY
...
ONCE
MORE
...
SACRI-
FICE.

*FX: THUD
*FX: WHUMP
*FX: ZZMM
*FX: OOO
.....


*WHFF
.....

WHAT'S WRONG, ELAINE?

WHOA ...

OOOOO...

AHHH!

COME ON...

LET'S GO. IT'S GETTING DARK.

AHHH!

...

...?

AHHH!

.....

ゴオオ。オ。

*OHHHHH

。オ。。オオ。。

*HOHHHH

*FX: KCHULP

.....

カラ…

*FX: CLANG

THIS SOURS THE WINE.

……

*FX: GYAHHH AHHH

ギャアアアア…

I THOUGHT OUR TASK WAS JUST TO *GUARD* HIM.

WHY DO THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS HAVE TO HELP OUT THIS *MOZGUS* IN THE FIRST PLACE?

NOW WE'RE PRACTICALLY HIS PERSONAL ARMY.

OUR COMMAN-DER...?

WHAT'S SHE THINKING ...?

*EEEEE

キャアアア

DO WE *HAVE* TO TOLERATE THAT DAMNED SCREAMING DURING DINNERTIME?

FOR GOD'S SAKE.

*GYAHH

ヒイイ…

H-HEY...

TALK ABOUT A PRAISE-WORTHY HEART OF FAITH.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO SCORE POINTS WITH THIS MOZGUS...

ギリ。
*GRIND

OR MAYBE IT'S HER *WOMAN'S* HEART...

SHH! SHE HEARS YOU.

PLEASE BE MORE CARE-FUL!

I APOLO-GIZE.

OH MY...

カ゛ニ゛ャ゛ー゛ニ゛ン

*FX: CLASHANNG

WHOA!

I'M SORRY.

DON'T WASTE FOOD.

WHY'S A *DOLT* LIKE *HIM* A HERALD OF ARMS?

BECAUSE HE WAGS HIS TAIL AND LICKS HER BOOTS LIKE THAT.

...THEY'VE INCREASED AGAIN.

EVEN SO...

IT'S LIKE... I GET THE FEELING THAT ALBION IS BEING BESIEGED BY THESE REFUGEES DAY AFTER DAY.

SOMETIMES IT SCARES ME.

THE REFU-GEES.

WHO HAS?

WHAT-EVER.

...

...

*FX: KANNNG KANNNG

*FX: KWAAA AAAA

*FX: KAA KWAA

クワッ!!

カア

*AAA

アー!

*AAA

アー!

KAA! KAA!

*HSSS.HSSS

*FX KWAAA

...
...

*FX: SHFF SHFF

YES?

I AM ABOUT TO CALL ON HIM. LET US GO TOGETHER.

THE MASTER IS PRESENTLY IN THE CHAPEL.

UH... FATHER MOZGUS ?

...
...

WERE YOU ASTON-ISHED ?

AH N-NO! ...

AT THEM PLAYING WITH THE BIRDS?

OR BY THEIR APPEARANCE ?

.....

WELL ...

*FX KANNNG KANNNG

"WE HAVE BEEN CHASED FROM VILLAGES AND TOWNS, SOLD TO CIRCUSES, AND SOME AMONG US HAVE LIVED SECRETLY IN FORESTS, LOATHED AS MONSTERS."

"WE HAVE EACH BEEN CRUELLY PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF OUR APPEARANCE."

THEY ARE GOOD-NATURED.

.....

!

PLEASE OBSERVE.

HE SEEMS HANDSOME ENOUGH.

*FX: TSSS

"...TO A PLACE WHERE MY BURNED, RACKED BODY WOULD BE SEEN BY NONE."

"I WAS DRIVEN FROM MY VILLAGE AND THE WORLD OF MEN..."

"CURSING THIS WORLD, I SOUGHT TO ROT AWAY, ALONE WITHIN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE BY THE WAYSIDE."

MY CONSTITUTION IS ALSO WEAK, AND WITHOUT THIS MASK I WOULD MOST LIKELY SUCCUMB TO CONTAGION WITHIN THREE DAYS.

I HAVE HAD THIS AILMENT SINCE BIRTH. WHEN IN CONTACT WITH SUNLIGHT, MY SKIN BECOMES INFLAMED AS IF IT HAD BEEN SCALDED...

"IT WAS THEN THAT I HAPPENED TO MEET FATHER MOZGUS."

"...SAID THE MASTER AS HE COVERED ME WITH HIS ROBE AND AFFECTIONATELY BLOCKED THE LIGHT OF THE SUN."

LORD GOD...

...I GIVE THANKS FOR THIS FATED ENCOUNTER.

...BUT THEY ARE IN *ERROR*...

...BECAUSE IN THESE SCRIPTURES, NOT A WORD IS WRITTEN WHICH CONDEMNS YOU AS SUCH.

"AGAIN WE WERE ALL TOLD THIS BY HIM."

PEOPLE MAY CALL YOU DEMONS OR MONSTERS FOR YOUR APPEARANCE ...

THAT IS THE FATE THAT THE LORD HAS DEALT YOU.

FATE?

RATHER, I THINK THAT YOU ARE ALL GRANTED THESE FORMS FOR SOME REASON.

...I HAPPENED ACROSS EACH OF YOU IN LIKE MANNER.

YES. AS PROOF ...

YOUR UNUSUAL APPEAR-ANCES...

...AND YOUR HEARTS FILLED WITH HATRED AND FEAR FROM THE DAYS WHEN YOU WERE DRIVEN AWAY BY PEOPLE...

...ALL OF THAT IS NEEDED BY GOD.

...AND HAVE FAITH.

HAVE PRIDE...

MY CHILDREN CHOSEN BY FATE...

SUCH THAT I QUIVERED.

IT CAME AS A SHOCK.

IT WAS A MIRACLE.

YES...

"...AM NEEDED BY GOD..."

"THAT I, DETESTED AS MONSTROUS TO THE POINT THAT EVEN I BELIEVED IT WAS TRUE, BEATEN CONTINUOUSLY LIKE A CRAVEN DOG..."

NEITHER CAN I COME TO ENJOY HURTING PEOPLE.

I FEEL AS IF I REALLY *HAVE* BECOME A MONSTER...

I AM SHUNNED, HATED, AND FEARED.

I DO NOT ENJOY THIS WORK.

...PERHAPS I COULD NOT DO THESE THINGS TO PEOPLE IF I WERE NOT SUCH...

WELL...

...BECAUSE THIS IS THE HOLY POST...

...GRANTED TO ME BY GOD AND RECORDED BY THE HOLY SEE IN SCRIPTURE...

HOW-EVER...

...EVEN SO, I DO HAVE PRIDE...

.....

*FX KANNNG KANNNG

THAT SOUND ?

THE *MASTER'S* WORSHIP.

THE SOUND OF WORSHIP.

*FX KONNNG *FX: GREEE *FX: KONNNG

*FX: KONG

*FX: GONNNG

*WHOOMP

BERSERK

*FX: KROCK

*WHOOMP

断罪篇 生誕祭の章 猛信者

CONVICTION ARC BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER FIERCE BELIEVER

.....

*FX: WHOOMP

*FX: KRACK

*FX: WHOOMP

*FX: GONNG

...AND NIGHT, A THOUSAND TIMES A DAY.

FATHER MOZGUS REPEATS IT MORNING...

IT IS PROSTRATION.

WHAT ...?

...OF THROWING HIMSELF DOWN IN PRAYER TO GOD.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, IN THE PAST TEN YEARS FATHER MOZGUS HAS NOT MISSED ONE DAY...

*FX: ("sound" of coming to rest)

SO THIS IS THE SECRET BEHIND THAT FACE.

HE SEEMS TO HAVE FINISHED.

.....

FATHER MOZGUS.

AH, MISS FARNESE.

*FX: SFF

IT'S SAID THAT A SAGE ONCE IMPRISONED IN THIS TOWER BY SUPREME KING GAISERIC...

...CONTINUED TO PROCLAIM THE SINS OF THE KING TO GOD, IN THE MIDST OF EVERY POSSIBLE TORTURE, UNTIL IN TIME AN ANGEL WAS MADE TO DESCEND.

SURELY THIS HOLY GROUND HAS *MIRACULOUS* VIRTUE.

IT MUST ALSO FILL WORSHIP WITH POWER.

FATHER, YOU ARE BLEEDING ...

AHH.

I FAILED TO NOTICE, AS I CAN HARDLY FEEL MY LEGS.

PLEASE PARDON ME.

... ...

THANK YOU.

...DEAR TO ME.

BUT I HOLD THIS PAIN...

THANKS TO THESE INJURIES, I CAN BARELY WALK... RUNNING IS ALREADY BEYOND ME.

IN A SHORT TIME THE SENSATION WILL RETURN, ALONG WITH THE PAIN.

MY SACRED DUTY IS TO ENFORCE THE *STRICT* LAWS OF GOD. SADLY, THIS ALSO MEANS THAT I MUST BRING MUCH PAIN TO OTHERS.

...ONE BECOMES NEGLIGENT OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE.

ALL THE MORE SO FOR ONE IN A POSITION SUCH AS MINE.

OF COURSE, I FEEL NO GUILT.

BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES WHEN ONE CHOOSES TO LIVE BY VOCATION...

TO ME THESE WOUNDS ARE PRECEPTS-- EVIDENCE OF FAITH.

.....

CAN PEOPLE...

...REALLY BE SAVED THROUGH THIS TASK?

I...

...DO NOT UNDER-STAND.

EH ...?

DOES SOME-THING TROUBLE YOU?

...PLEASE HEAR ME OUT?

WOULD YOU...

I COULD ASK THE OTHERS TO LEAVE ...

WOULD YOU SEE FIT TO CONFESS TO ME?

NO, THAT IS NOT NECESSARY.

...THERE IS NO INDICATION AT ALL THAT THE PRIEST MURDERS WILL CEASE.

EVEN THOUGH WE ARREST MANY SUSPECTS ...

I AM ASHAMED OF IT, BUT THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW EVEN AMONG MY HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST OUR DUTY.

...AND THAT IS NOT ALL.

THE REPORTS SAY THE REFUGEE ATTITUDE TOWARDS US GROWS MALICIOUS...

...AT THIS RATE, I WONDER IF ALL WE ARE DOING IS USELESSLY SPREADING FEAR AND IMPOVERISHING PEOPLES' SPIRITS...

...BUT...

PLEASE LAUGH AT THE NONSENSE OF MY INEXPE-RIENCE...

I SHALL TELL YOU A STORY.

.....

"IT IS SAID THAT SHE WOULD SEEK OUT THOSE DYING, ABANDONED BY THE WORLD OF MAN WITHOUT EVEN A SECOND GLANCE DUE TO POVERTY, DISEASE, AND THE LIKE. SHE WOULD COVER THEM WITH BLANKETS, EMBRACE THEM, AND HOLD THEIR HAND LIKE A MOTHER, SO THEY COULD AT LEAST HAVE PEACE WHEN GOD CALLED FOR THEM."

"IN ANCIENT TIMES THERE WAS A HOLY WOMAN WHO PRACTICED POVERTY AND DEVOTED HER ENTIRE LIFE TO THE AID OF OTHERS."

"AS ALWAYS, SHE EMBRACED THE MAN AND GRASPED HIS HAND."

"ONE TIME, SHE DISCOVERED, FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE, AN EMACIATED OLD MAN WHO WAS DYING."

"'PLEASE DO NOT DISGRACE MY SUBLIME MOMENT OF DEATH WITH YOUR WARMTH.'"

"BUT THIS IS WHAT HE SAID: 'THE FACT THAT I AM LYING HERE ROTTING BY THE WAYSIDE IS PROOF THAT I HAVE LIVED A PROUD LIFE OF SOLITUDE AND INDEPENDENCE.'"

GOD.

.....

FOR GOD, AND GOD ALONE...

...DO WE ACT.

PERHAPS IT IS ALL THE MORE IN GOD'S HANDS FOR THAT.

A PERSON KNOWS NOT WHAT SUCCEEDS IN HELPING.

AND MORE THAN ANYTHING, OUR ACTIONS MUST NOT USE OURSELVES AS A STANDARD FOR OTHERS. EVERYTHING IS WITHIN THESE SCRIPTURES.

THOU SHALT NOT DEPLORE THE PEOPLE'S MISUNDER-STANDINGS.

THOU SHALT NOT FEAR THINE OWN DEATH, NOR THE DEATHS OF OTHERS.

THOU SHALT NOT DEPLORE DISTRESSING DUTIES.

THOU SHALT NOT SEEK RETRIBUTION FOR THINE ACTIONS.

WHATEVER BLOOD WE SPILL IN SPIRIT OR FLESH...

...AS MAN WE CONTINUE TO EXIST DEVOUTLY FOR GOD.

THOU SHALT NOT QUESTION GOD.

THAT IS WHAT *FAITH* IS ABOUT.

MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

.....

ポリ

*FX: SKITCH

YES.

MASTER, PLEASE LET US RETURN.

...LET US INDEED.

THEN...

SOME-HOW THAT WAS SHADY. A FLAW-LESS ARGU-MENT...

AYE.

WE'RE GOING, TOO.

GOD.

...DO WE ACT.

FOR GOD, AND GOD ALONE...

*WHEW

.....

THANK YOU ALWAYS, NINA.

HERE, OLD LADY...

*FX GOFF

THANKS TO YOU, I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER THESE DAYS.

I'M GLAD. BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.

STOP, YOU'LL GET YOUR CLOTHES MUDDY!

URRGH!

HEY! STOP THAT, ELAINE!

!

*EEK

*EEK

!

BLACH BLACH

*FX: BLACH BLACH

NINA ...

...

...

JOA-CHIM ...

UH... UM...

WHAT SHAPE MY BODY'S IN...?

.....

YOU KNOW, RIGHT?

I'M ON BREAK RIGHT NOW. IF THIS IS BUSINESS, PLEASE ASK ANOTHER GIRL.

I...

UH

NO. ...

UH...

AH...

OR MAYBE...

...AND YOU STILL WANT TO HAVE ME?

...YOU KNOW ...

CUSTOMER?

I...

NO, NO...

THAT'S NOT WHAT...

I WAS ...

I...

THEN JUST HAVE ME ALREADY!!

*FLINCH

WHATEVER KIND WORDS YOU SAY...

DON'T YOU GET IT?

...I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY MORE FREE-BIES.

... JUST ... ... WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

ドキ・
*BTHUMP

!

NO.

AH...

I...

...COME TO THE RIVERSIDE TONIGHT WHEN THE MIDNIGHT BELL TOLLS.

IF YOU'RE REALLY BRAVE ENOUGH...

IT'S TOO EARLY FOR SHOUT-ING...

WHAT'S UP, NINA?

.....

VOOO!

*FX: FLAPA

*FX: POKE

*FX: BAFF

HEY, NINA?

IT'S NOTHING!

.....

*FX: YAWN

*ZHA

YOU CAME.

ANSWER ME, JOACHIM.

!

NINA.

*HUG

DO YOU LOVE ME?

AH!

YEAH.

I DO...

*FX. ZHA ZHA

CAN YOU *DIE* WITH ME?

...CAN YOU LIE WITH ME?

THEN ...

...IF IT WAS TOGETHER WITH ME?

COULD YOU FALL TO HELL...

*FX: GULP

IF I'M...

...WITH YOU...

YEAH...

.....

...!

WH-WHERE TO?
COME WITH ME.
C'MON.
...
...
THAT'S ON THE HOUSE ...
THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.
WHERE SCARY GOD ISN'T.
SHE COULDN'T BE...
THAT GIRL.

ACHOO!

VOOOO...

*SNFF

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER

FIERCE BELIEVER: END

*FX DROM DROM DROM DROM

ドロ

ドロ

ドロ

*FX DROM DROM DROM DROM

ドロ

ドロ

ドロ

断罪篇
生誕祭の章
聖地のはらわた

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
BOWELS OF THE HOLY GROUND

...WITHOUT SHAPE, FREE FROM FEAR AND ANXIETY.

SUCH CERTAINLY EXISTED...

...KNOWN AS SIN.

HUMANS CANNOT BE BOUNDLESS...

BUT AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS CAVERN...

...WAS AN UNDULATION OF FLESH...

*FX· GLOOP GLOOP GLOOP GLOOP

*GLOOP

*GLOOP

*GLOOP

AHH ...

C'MON.

*DROM

*DROM

*DROM

*DROM

LET'S GO DOWN.

SO SHE'S ...

ドロ

ドロ

ドロ

*FX DROM DROM DROM DROM

NI--

NINA ...!

COME.

LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER.

.....

IS THIS A DRUG?

*FX ZLP

!

AN ILLUSION ...?

'TIS THE GODDESS OF FLAME!!

GODDESS...

...OF FLAME?

THEY'VE MIXED DRUGS INTO THE COOKPOT.

A HALLUCI-NATION ...?

ボウ…

.....

*FX BOPPH

I'M FALLING ...!!

*FX: PULSE

ドク…

*FX. HAAH HAAH HAAH

NOW, JOACHIM.

OH GREAT GOAT ...

...I HAVE BROUGHT THIS ONE TO HAVE HIM CONVERT.

*FX· UHHHH

*SHKK

NEXT, KISS HIS HEART AND HIS MEMBER.

...
...

YOU RECITE THESE WORDS TO DEFILE GOD.

.....

NOW THIS IS THE LAST PART.

*HSSSSS

IF YOU DRINK THIS, YOU'LL BE ONE OF US.

JOA-CHIM ?!

GEH ...!!

*FX: KRASSH

.....

*FX KRNCH

ド

*DROM

ド

*DROM

ド

*DROM

ド

*DROM

ド

*DROM

ド

*DROM

...AN ILLUSION.

THIS ISN'T...

*GLOOP

*GLOOP

*GLOOP

*GLOOP

AHHHH!!

JOA-CHIM !!

...
...
...

WA ...!

IGH...

EEEEE...

KILL THAT MAN!

HE MEANS TO BETRAY US!

EHHH...

*FX: STARE

YEE...

SFX: ガシッ

うわ
あ、あ、あ
あ・・・

*FX: YAHHH AHHHH

*FX: YAHHHHHH

あ

あ

あ

GO ON AHEAD.

.....

HE'S DEAD.

YEAH.

NO SURVIVING FROM THIS HEIGHT.

LET'S GO BACK.

SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR IT AND COME LOOK.

AHU ...

HU... GH...

AHA HA...

HMM ...

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
THE WITCH

... LIAR...

YOU BIG...

断罪篇
生誕祭の章 魔女

!

WHAT ?!

I *SAID* GO ON AHEAD ...!!

NINA...

LUCA.

WHY'RE ...?

.....

KEEP BACK.

NO...

.....

DON'T COME NEAR ME!!

STAY AWAY !!

KEEP BACK ...!!

*ZHA

*GRAB

NINA ...

*FX: VMM

*FX: HAH

*KRAK

*FX: PLIP

.....

ポタ

.....

*FX: ZHA

I-IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER...

*FX: WHRRRLL

ゴゴゴゴ...

.....

...I'LL JUMP OFF!!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

WH-

WHAT...

*FX: ZHA ZHA

ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, PROUDLY ORDERING PEOPLE AROUND!!

YOU'VE BEEN HIGH-HANDED AND INTOLERABLE!!

YOU'VE NEVER DONE RIGHT BY ME!!

YOU KNOW ***WHAT***?!

YOU'RE ***PITYING*** ME!! DO YOU ***DESPISE*** ME?! THAT'S HOW YOU GET SO BIG AND ***FULL*** OF YOURSELF!!

WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?!

E-EVEN ***RIGHT NOW!!***

HOW CAN YOU LOOK DOWN ON OTHER PEOPLE THAT WAY ?!

YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME, JUST A WHORE !!

*FX: ZHA

.....

I-IF I CALL OUT LOUD ENOUGH, MY FRIENDS'LL COME BACK.

THEY'LL TEAR YOU TO PIECES.

*WHAAAP

*WHEP

LIKE

OWW ...!

WHAT'RE YOU--?!

*WHASHT

*WHACK

GYAHN!

AIEE...

*FX: YANK

ウッ!!

*WHAP WHIP

STOP IIIT...

...LUCA!

PLEASE ...

...STOP IIIT...!!

アゥ。

ピク。

*OW OW

*WHAST

AIU...

*WHAAP

*WHAP

*WHIPSH

S...

HEE...!

STO~

*WHAPSH

IGH!

STOP!

I- I'M SORRY !!!!

*FX: WHSSHH

AH WON'T DO IT AGAIN ...

AH... AH'M ZHORRY ...

ヒック。

*FX: HII HIGG

*FX: FLINCH

ビク。

*FX: PAT

ペチ。

GIRL, YOU...

...WORRY ME SO.

OOOO...

HEE...

HNG...

...A SILLY GIRL.

YOU REALLY ARE...

EGGHHH...

AGGHHH...

UEHHH...

AHHHH...

COME ON.

LET'S JUST GO HOME.

*FX: SNFF

LUCA...

JOA-CHIM'S ...

I...

I...

*FX: HF HF

DON'T SAY ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

.....

*FX: ("sound" of hiding)

WHO'S THIS, THEN?

!

AVUUU!

OH, NO...

SHE FOLLOWED ME HERE!!

ELAINE ?!

WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?

HNN?

BYEW!

ISN'T SHE A WHORE AT NINA'S PLACE? SHE LOOKS LIKE THAT 'CAUSE OF SYPHILIS OR SOMETHIN'.

AHH, I KNOW HER.

SEEMS IT'S ON HER FACE, TOO.

WHAT, YOU WANNA CONVERT?

PHEW...

SHE WON'T RAT ON US IF SHE'S INSANE, EITHER.

I AIN'T RAPIN' A GIRL WITH SYPHILIS.

LEAVE HER BE AND LET'S GO BACK.

I'M GETTIN' SICK IN THIS COLD.

...AT A FACE THAT'S *ROTTIN' OFF!!*

I WANNA TAKE A LOOK...

*FX: PAT PAT

HEE HEE... THIS COULD BE INTER-ESTIN'.

HEHEH... HEY, WAIT A MINUTE.

*FX: RRRIP

OH, HELL!

VWEEE!

AWHA ...?

*FX: WHOAA

ほおお...

OH! LOOKY! LOOKY!

WHADDA WE HAVE HERE?

LET'S FIND OUT!!

WHAT'S HER BODY LIKE?!

AHHH!

FLOP

*THUD

*SHRRRIP

*GRASP

THERE'S NOTHIN' ROTTEN UNDER THAT MASK.

HEHEH, NOW THERE'S A FACE THAT COULD USE SOME A' ME IN IT.

YOU STAY PUT OVER THERE!!

LUCA ...?!

*DASH

HYAHAHA! STRUGGLE, STRUGGLE! IT'S MORE FUN WHEN THEY'RE LIVELY!!

AHHH! GEEE!

*FX: FLAIL FLAIL

*THDUMP

*FX: THDUMP

WHAT'S WITH HER?!

OWAHH!!

ガッ!!!

ガッ!!!

*FX: TWITCH ZHFFA TWITCH

HEY!

WHAT HAPPENS HAPPENS.

YOU PEOPLE ...!!

UH... ?

*AHHHH

*PACHING

*POP

*KRIK

*VVVV

AGH!

AGH!

WHAT'S THAT...?

*FX: SHIVER

HU...

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG ?

H...

*GRRGLE

*FX: CRUN

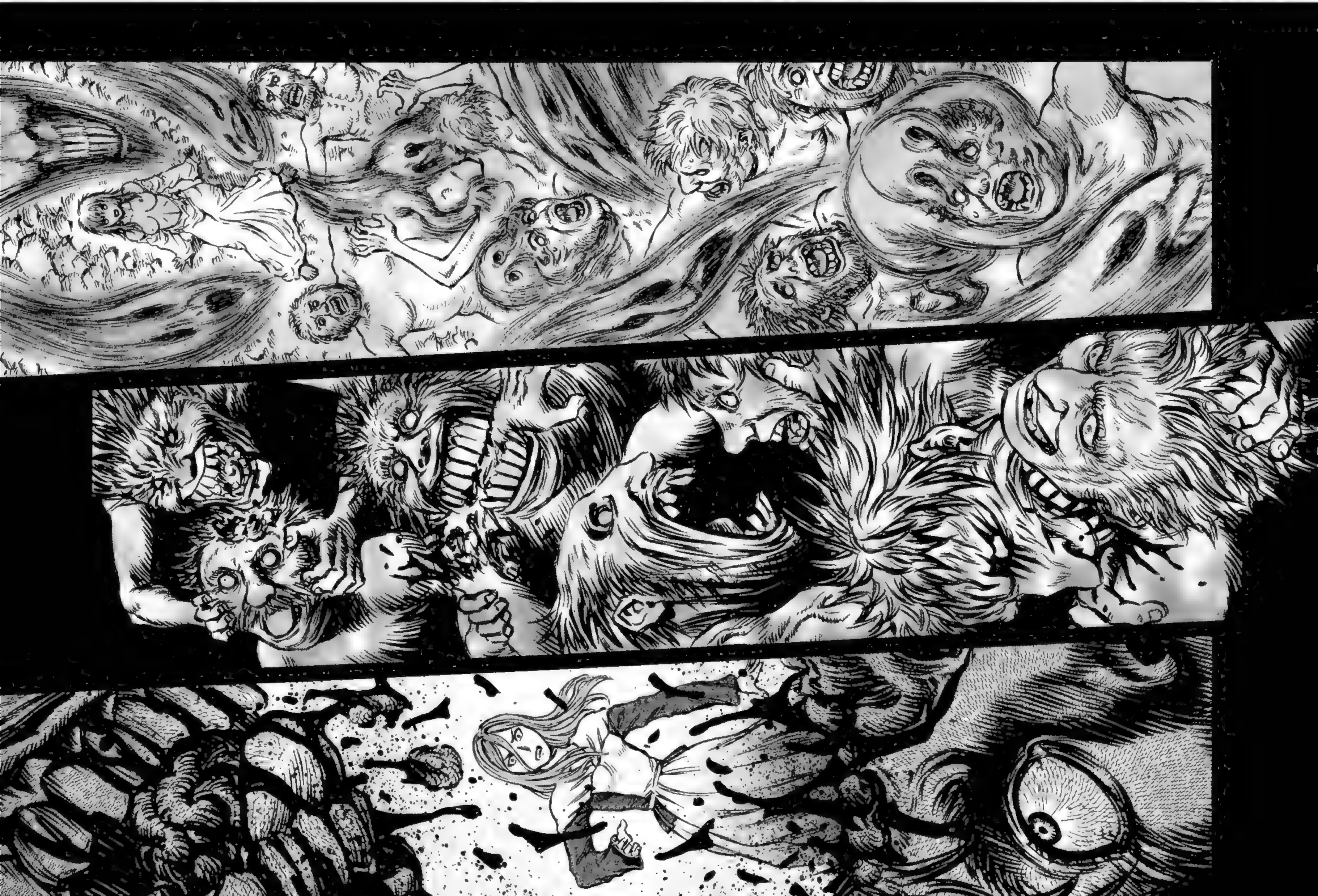
HUNGRY!

SAY WHAT ?

S...

*UWAH

*KRUP. KRUP.



.....

WHAT IS THIS...?!

WHA...?!

...IT'S HER ?!

DON'T TELL ME...

SACRI-FICE.

FLESH.

MEAT.

WOMAN.

SACRI-FICE...

ZMM

*FX: MWOHHH

!

ELAINE!!

*FX: FLINCH

IGH ...

WAH ...

*FX: DOSH

*FX: THUD

*FX: GRRR

*FX: NNN

*FX: MGA

*FX: ZMM

AH...

AHH!

OOO...

ELAINE ...

YOU...

A WITCH !!

WITCH ...

AHH!

OOO!

*BOW

ZUU HHH!!!

SHF

VWEEE...

*FX: ZHLF

ズルッ。

*FX: ZHLF

ズッ。

ザアアア・・・

*FX: ZHAAAA

ビュウウウ・・・ウ・・・

*WRRRLLLL

OO...

...FOUND HIM.

ハァ ハァ

ハァ ハァ

F...

*FX: HEHHH HAHHH HEHHH HAHHH

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
SPIRIT ROAD, PART 1

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　怪道①

HE'S BEEN RUNNIN' A WHOLE DAMN DAY AND A HALF, SINCE NOON YESTERDAY!

IF I HADN'T BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO HITCH A RIDE WITH THOSE REFUGEES, I WOULD'VE LOST SIGHT OF HIM.

*FX: SHMP

*FX: GRASP

...

.....

HNN
GGGG!

I'LL BET THIS SWORD'S FAMOUS !!

SO SHARP! SO MASSIVE!

WON'T BUDGE AN INCH.

W-
W--

HNGGGG...

...SWINGS IT AROUND SO EASILY...

BUT HE...

PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT.

*VSSH VSSH

THIS IS THE DARK BLADE OF OBLITERATION!

*FX: HIYAHHH

THEN PUT EVERY-THING INTO THE FIRST SWING, LETTIN' LOOSE WITH A SHOUT!

LIKE...

...THIS!

USE YOUR HIPS.

SEE?

*STRAIN

I'M *PUCK!* SEVENTH DEGREE IN ELF DIMENSION STYLE.

I DIDN'T ASK YOURS.

I-ISIDRO...

WHEN YOU REQUEST A PERSON'S NAME, IT'S GOOD TO GIVE YOUR OWN FIRST.

HRRR...

...

HOOO!

HE AIN'T STOPPIN' ME?

VERY WELL, ISIDRO, GIVE US A SHOUT AND *HEAVE!*

*FX: SMOOSH

*FX: GCHAK

HM

HEY, GUTS. I CAUGHT SNEAKIDRO.

...

FLUTTA

I...

I'M DEA--!!

...!!

.....

IT *AIN'T* A KID'S TOY.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SHADOWIN' ME SINCE YESTERDAY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HE HE HE HEH...

HEH...

YOU WANNA BE HIS APPRENTICE?

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TA GO THROUGH ME, SINCE I'M HIS MANAGER.

Y...

YEAH, YOU *WISH!*

I *AIN'T*...

...ABOUT TO BE UNDER ANYONE.

"HM."
?

HAVE YOU EVER CUT DOWN ANYONE?

YOU MISS THAT FOOD YOU GAVE TO ME, AND YOU'VE COME TO TAKE IT BACK! OH, FOR SHAME!

AHH !!

YOU ATE ALL THAT?

OKAY, FINE ...

FORGET ABOUT IT! I ATE IT ALL UP! IT'S GONE!

!

DO YOU WANT TO BE A FIGHTER?

YOU'VE GOT A SWORD.

.....

*FX: MUTTER

Y...

YEAH, SURE.

... OR TWO ...

ONE ...

IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T HANG AROUND ME MUCH.

WELL, IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.

WH-WHAT I DO'S UP TO *ME!* YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO COMPLAIN!

...THAT *IS* TRUE.

WELL...

THEY'RE *HERE.*

WHY ?

HEY, ***SNEAKIDRO,*** YOU BETTER RUN.

IT'S *ISIDRO.*

GUTS ...

WHAT'S THAT ?

*FX: RMRMRMRMRM

*FX: RMRMRMRMRMRMRM

?!

*CLATA

*CLATA

*CLATA

*CLATA

*CLATA

THIS IS NEW.

*FX. KSSSHA

*DM

*DM

*DM

*DM

*DM

W-WAGON WHEELS ...

*DM

*DM

...MOVIN' ON THEIR OWN...?!

GOD DAMN IT...

DAMN YOU...

DAMMIT ...

SON OF A BITCH ...

ゴキ・ゴキ。

*FX: KRIK KRIK

チェェェす!

ざし ざくざくざしざし

*FX: HIYAAAH!

*FX: STK STK STK STK STK

.....

ミェ

*FX: PINCH

*FX: PSSSSH

HM

IT'S REAL?!

HELL'S ANGELS.

WHAT THE HELL'S THIS?!

WHA--?

*OOO

*HNNNN

*OHHHN

*OHHHN

*GRIND

*GRIND

*GRIND

*GRIND

*GRIND

I'LL TEAR YOU APARRRT.

I'LL GET YOUUU.

DAMN YOUUU.

.....

I-I DON'T RECALL BEIN' CURSED BY ANY WAGON WHEELS.

...KILL YOU, TOOOO.

GUESS WE SHOULD...

HNGYAHH!!

I'LL NEVER HITCH OR SWIPE FROM ANOTHER WAGON EVER AGAIN!!

*RATA

*RATA

*RATA

*RATA

*GTUNK

*WHOM

*BKOM

THEY JUST DIED AND GOT STUPID, AND THEY CAN'T TELL WHO THEY'RE CURSING.

THEY DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY REASON TO HATE YOU OR ME.

*CLAK

*CLAK

*CLAK

CURSE YOUUU.

IT HURRRTS.

I'LL RIP YOUR GUTS OUT.

*BAAOHHHHHM

GO TO HELLL.

SHON OF A BISH.

THESE GUYS, TOO...

HATE, HATE, HUH?

MONSTERS OR WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE. I JUST WANNA UNLEASH THIS BLACK MASS PENT UP INSIDE ME.

*SQUEEZE

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME FOR ME, TOO.

BUT...

...RIGHT NOW...

...I AIN'T GOT TIME TO MESS WITH YOU!

I'M IN A HURRY...

...AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PRESS ON.

*FX: CHNG CHNG CHNG
*BDASSH
DON'T FALL BEHIND, SNEAKI-DRO!!
LIKE YOU HAD TO TELL ME...!!
AND IT'S ISIDRO!

*FX: GASH

*FX: KRASSH

*FX: FLAPA

*FX: CLATA CLATA CLATA

HI-YO, SNEAKI-DRO!

I KN- KNEW HE WAS AMAZIN'

HIEEE!

HIEEE!

YOU'RE SCREWED!

NOGYAHHH!!

*KRN

*KRN

*KRN

*KRN

*KRN

HEY! GET TO ROCKY GROUND OR SOMEWHERE THOSE WHEELS CAN'T GO! YOU'LL GET RUN DOWN IF YOU KEEP FOLLOWIN'!

NO WAY!

*FX: KRNKRNKRNKRNKRNKRN

GALLOP GALLOP

THIS'S THE *OPEN ROAD!!*

WHERE I GO'S UP TO ME, ALRIGHT?!

.....

NOW! ELF DIMENSION STYLE DARK B--!

HYAH!

*POK

GEH!

PASSED ON THE INSIDE.

*FX: CLATA CLATA CLATA

OH! OH YEAH! I FORGOT.

YOUR SWORD, SNEAKIDRO, YOUR *SWORD.* NOW IS THE TIME TO PRACTICE WHAT I'VE TAUGHT YOU!

*KRN

*KRN

*KRN

*KHHH!!

SNEAKIDRO SHIELD.

*WHRUNK

*TUG

ムーリズ…

EH ...?

AH.

*TOSS

.....

*FX: ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL

*FX: WAHHH

*FX. FLUTT

*FX: CLATA CLATA CLATA CLATA

.....

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
SPIRIT ROAD (1): END

BERSERK

*FX: ZHA ZHA ZHA

:HAH:

:HAH:

:HAH:

:HAH:

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
SPIRIT ROAD, PART 2

-:HEHH:-

LET'S DROP THE PACE A BIT.

HEY, IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

OR MAYBE YOU JUST WIPED 'EM OUT?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DONE FOLLOWIN' US.

.....

*FX· GCHAK GCHAK

HAH

HAH

AT THIS RATE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ONCE YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'. YOU'RE CARRYIN' THIS HUGE THING, AFTER ALL.

C'MON, YOU'VE BEEN RUNNIN' ALL SINCE YESTERDAY, AND WITH JUST *ONE* SHORT NAP.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BOY.

I WONDER IF HE DIED?

HE KINDA SEEMED LIKE YOU... NASTY LOOK IN HIS EYES, AND SO STUBBORN.

PISS OFF.

*FX: ZHFAA

ONE MONSTER AFTER ANOTHER. TONIGHT'S A MONSTER BUMPER CROP.

NYEW ?

*FX: HAHHH HAHHH

NO...

THAT'S ...

...AN OLD CHUM.

NO SUDDEN STOPS! BE MORE MINDFUL OF YOUR LANDLORD!

*FX: SMACK

YOU SEEM IN GOOD HEALTH, STRUGGLER.

I THOUGHT I'D GET YOUR ATTENTION.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD *MANY* HUMAN FRIENDS, BUT OF ALL THINGS A *MONSTER*...?

EH? YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

.....

AN ELF...

AN INTERESTING THING TO HAVE WITH YOU.

HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE'S PRETTY LONELY. PLEASE BE NICE TO HIM. BY THE WAY, I'M PUCK...

YOU SHUT UP A MINUTE.

AH! THAT'S NOT TO SAY I DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MONSTERS.

SOMETHING... ABOUT HIM...

HUH...?

*SEETHE

?

THE TIES THAT BIND ARE STRONG.

HMM... TWO YEARS PRIOR...

ONE IS KNOWN TO BE LOCATED WHERE I'M HEADED...

AS I SAID BEFORE, I AM THE FOE OF THE INHUMANS.

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, PAL.

...THE LEADER.

POSSIBLY ... ...

AN APOSTLE'S NEAR HERE...?!

APOSTLE ...

H...

.....

WHADDA YOU MEAN?!

HOLD UP!!

NOT THAT ...!!

...ALSO THE LAND YOU SEEK.

... PERHAPS IS...

AND WHERE I'M GOING...

ARE YOU SAYING THE *GODHAND* ARE *THERE?!*

...TOWER OF CONVICTION.

NOT THAT THEY'RE AT THE...

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT CAN BE SAID THAT AS A HUGE BODY OF THOUGHT, THEY CANNOT TAKE FLESH IN THIS WORLD, THUS THEY EXIST NOWHERE.

ANY PLACE NEGATIVE HUMAN THOUGHTS SWIRL IN A LARGE CONCENTRATION.

THEY EXIST EVERYWHERE IN THIS WORLD.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YER ANNOYIN' ANSWERS!!

M-MY HEAD...

3-BIT

ONCE AGAIN, YOU LOST ME...

LIKELY EVERY HUMAN IN THE WORLD WAS WITNESS TO THAT *SAME THING.*

DID YOU NOT SEE IT TOO? *THE DREAM OF THE SHINING HAWK?*

WHEN THE CONCENTRATION REACHES A CRITICAL POINT, ONE WHO SHOULD EXIST IN THE DIVINE DOMAIN...

...IS INCARNATED. JUST ONCE IN A THOUSAND YEARS.

BUT AT TIMES THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS.

IT WAS A REVELATION.

...IS GOING TO APPEAR IN THIS WORLD.

THAT *SOMEONE* ...

...WHO SIGNIFIES THE HAWK...

THE HAWK...?!

GUTS ?

HAWK...

THAT GIRL WHO WAS WITH YOU, WHERE IS SHE NOW?

I ASK YOU THIS...

!

...SHE IS AT THE HOLY GROUND YOU SEEK?

COULD IT BE...

SO IT'S TRUE ...

WHAT ?

THE CON-CENTRATION OF THAT IDEA IS CALLED THE "FESTIVAL."

THE POWER OF GOD DESCENDS TO EARTH ...

A LITTLE EASIER TO GRASP, IF YOU COULD.

WHY IS IT *YOU* KNOW THAT?! GIVE ME A *STRAIGHT* ANSWER, *GODDAMMIT!!*

HEY !

WHAT THE HELL'D YOU FIGURE OUT?!

AND THE FESTIVAL IS ESSENTIALLY A DIVINE WORK...

IT TRACES A PHENOMENON IN THE DIVINE DOMAIN.

AND YOU AND THAT GIRL WILL COME TO THROW YOUR-SELVES INTO THEIR MIDST.

IT NEARLY PARALLELS THAT OTHER TIME...

THE FLOCKING SHEEP WHO'VE BEEN LED TO THE BLOOD-SPLATTERED HOLY GROUND DESIRE THE *"HAWK OF LIGHT."*

THE ECLIPSE.

TRACES A PHENOME-NON...?

IT'S AN ATTEMPT ...

...TO IMITATE THE ECLIPSE.

*HUUUUUU

WAH!

ANXIETY, FEAR, ANGER... IT'S AS IF AN EMOTIONAL FLOODGATE HAS BURST INSIDE GUTS!!

*FLIP FLAP

*TWITCH

!

WHAT'S THIS EMOTION...?

...WHAT'S THIS...?

BUT...

HUH...?

THAT...

...HAPPEN AGAIN?

...

... YOU MEAN ... THAT'LL ... ...

...ONE MORE TIME?

.....

IS THIS...

... ECSTASY ?!

...THE COURSE OF THIS FESTIVAL.

...THERE'S NO WAY FOR MAN TO CHANGE...

UNFORTU-NATELY...

THIS WORLD IS AS MOONLIGHT REFLECTED ON THE WATER'S SURFACE.

WHAT ?

...AND THIS IS A THING WHICH ALREADY WAS.

SO LONG AS THE MOON EXISTS IN THE SKY, MOONLIGHT WILL REMAIN ON THE WATER...

THE MOON'S LIGHT WILL NOT BE EXTINGUISHED.

THAT WE MEET AGAIN UNEXPECTEDLY HERE AND NOW IS PROOF...

...MORE THAN ANYTHING.

!

THEN YOU MEAN ...

...THE RESULTS WILL BE THE SAME AS LAST TIME?

WHAT WILL FOLLOW NOW IS A SHADOW...

...BY LIGHT FROM A DISTANT, DYING SUN.

NO MORE THAN A SHADOW CAST HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH...

.....

GUTS ?

...ARE STILL MERELY SHADOWS ON THE WATER.

WE WHO EXIST BEYOND THE PHYSICAL ...

...WITHIN THE CURRENT OF CAUSALITY.

WE ALREADY SUBSIST...

TCH!

I DECIDED ON THE TOWER OF CONVICTION-- AND GO THERE ON MY OWN FEET. NOBODY ORDERED ME TO.

WHO CARES ABOUT SHADOWS? CAUSALITY?

YOU GAVE ME THAT NAME ...

BESIDES, YOU'RE FORGETTING... I'M *REALLY* BAD AT GIVING IN.

THE NAME *"STRUGGLER."*

.....

THAT WHOLE CAUSALITY BIT'S...

...PRETTY SHADY, ANYWAY.

THIS PROUD MONSTER ONCE PREDICTED SOMETHIN' TO ME. "A DEATH YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE WILL PAY YOU A VISIT." HE WAS SURE AS HELL RIGHT, UP 'TIL THE ECLIPSE.

...BOTH CASCA AND I...

...MADE IT THROUGH ALIVE.

YOU SAID THE SAME THING.

BUT THEN WHAT HAPPENED ?

...EVEN IF WE GOT A LITTLE TORN UP...

EVEN IF WE SWAM IN A SEA OF BLOOD AND SHIT...

AND THEN...

SURE, YOU HELPED US OUT THAT TIME.

BUT THIS TIME...

...I'LL SAVE HER BY MY OWN STRENGTH.

THEN...

HMM ...

...BUT IT'S NOT JUST ANGER.

IT'S INTENSE...

IT'S MORE COMPLEX...

!

...IT DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL BE EXACTLY THE SAME.

AND EVEN IF IT IMITATES THE ECLIPSE ...

THE SCOPE TOO HAS NATURAL LIMITS IN THE MATERIAL DOMAIN.

...I WILL IN TURN GAMBLE EVERY-THING ON THAT POINT.

THOUGH MINUTE, SINGULAR DETAILS CERTAINLY *CAN* OCCUR AT THE TIME JUNCTION POINT THAT EVEN *THEY* CAN'T PREDICT...

...IT MAY BE OF UNANTICI-PATED AID.

WHAT ?

FURTHER-MORE, THAT BRAND CARVED INTO YOU...

THAT IS, THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL AND ASTRAL WORLDS.

AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DUE TO THE BRAND, YOU NOW LIVE IN THE "INTERSTICE."

...BUT YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE REASON OF THE WORLD.

IT'S MERELY HALF A STEP...

...BUT INSTEAD, A FISH THAT BREACHES THE WATER'S SURFACE.

MAYBE YOU AREN'T A SHADOW ON THE WATER...

...I WILL WARN YOU OF ONE THING.

HOW-EVER ...

IT WON'T BE AS SIMPLE AS CATCHING TWO BIRDS.

YOUR LOVER WILL BE LEFT ALONE.

...OR RESCUE ... FIGHT ...

*FX: BWOOOO

...SEE YOU AGAIN ...

AT THE HOLY GROUND WHERE BLIND SHEEP GATHER...

OOG!

YOU SHOULDA BUMMED A RIDE OFF HIM.

Y'KNOW ...

YEAH?

MR. SKULL, HUH...?

I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT NIFTY.

.....

...HE KINDA FELT LIKE AN ELF...

...BUT THAT GUY...

MAYBE I IMAGINED IT...

HMMM...

NAH, NEVER-MIND...

THAT'S MY TOP PRIORITY. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I'LL SAVE CASCA.

BUT IF HE STANDS BEFORE ME...

...THEN, I'LL...

LET'S GO.

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
SPIRIT ROAD (2): END

IT WAS LIKE THE VOICE OF A.. HOWLING MONSTER BENEATH THE EARTH.

IT WAS A HOWLING, BUT NOT LIKE THE WIND.

...I'D COWER IN MY BED...

WHEN I HEARD THAT SOUND...

...TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP.

...ALONE...

...THE CITY SQUARE.

...IN MY ROOM OVERLOOKING...

ROAR... ROAR...

ROAR... ROAR...!!

EVEN SO, I FOUND MYSELF DRAWN TO THE WINDOW...

THERE WAS THIS MYSTERIOUS PILLAR OF FLAME.

A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF CAST SHADOWS WERE WAVERING.

ROAR...
ROAR...

LIKE SOME KIND OF FESTIVAL.

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
PILLAR OF FLAME

断罪篇
生誕祭の章　炎の柱

ｸｸ…

…

*AHAHA

*FX LIFT

ｽ…

ボ。。

*FX: BOPH

RELEASE !!

ゴォォォ。。。

*FX: ROARRR

EGH...

*FX: SNICKT SNAP

*FX: ROHHH

*FX: BROARRR

ゴォォ。ォォォ。。

HELL...

"...THE COMMANDER'S VOLUNTARILY BEEN THROWING TORCHES AT THE STAKES."

"SINCE THE TIME SHE WAS A CHILD..."

...TO HAVE TROUBLE LIGHTING PEOPLE ON FIRE.

THE WENCH SURE DOESN'T SEEM...

HUH ?

APPARENTLY THE COMMANDER HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE STAKE.

OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW, SIR JEROME?

"IT SEEMS WHEN THE HERETIC HUNTS WERE WIDESPREAD, THAT WAS USED AS A BURNING GROUND."

"HER FAMILY'S HOME FACED THE CITY SQUARE."

"...WAS APPROVED WAS HER MERITORIOUS SERVICE THREE YEARS AGO IN THE HOLY SEE, WHEN SHE CAUGHT A GROUP OF REBELLIOUS HERETICS AND SENTENCED THEM TO BURN AT THE STAKE."

"I HEARD THE REASON THE SEARCH FOR THE BLACK SWORDSMAN ..."

.....

GOOD GOD.

MAN, TALK ABOUT *HARDCORE.*

WHAT ARE YOU CHAT-TERING ABOUT?!

SIR!

YOU THERE !

THOU SHALT NOT SEEK RETRIBUTION FOR THINE ACTIONS.

THOU SHALT NOT FEAR THINE OWN DEATH, NOR THE DEATHS OF OTHERS.

THOU SHALT NOT DEPLORE THE PEOPLE'S MISUNDER-STANDINGS.

THOU SHALT NOT DEPLORE DISTRESSING DUTIES.

*FX: OO

DADDY ...

*FX: WHISPER

HE HE HEH ...

I WILL NOT BE TROUBLED !!

WHATEVER BLOOD WE SPILL IN SPIRIT OR FLESH, AS MAN WE CONTINUE TO EXIST DEVOUTLY FOR GOD.

THOU SHALT NOT QUESTION GOD.

THAT IS WHAT FAITH IS ABOUT.

...LIKE FATHER LIKE SON?

DOES THAT MEAN...

YOU'RE DADDY'S A HERETIC, ISN'T HE?

HEHEH... LAD...

GIVE THIS A THROW.

HERE.

IF NOT, YOU'LL HAVE TO PROVE IT.

...YOU'LL BE THE NEXT ONE TURNED IN.

IF YOU DON'T THROW THIS HERE AND NOW...

LOOK AROUND AT EVERYONE'S EYES.

I'M SAYIN' THIS OUT OF KINDNESS.

I...

I...

NOT TO WORRY.

IT WAS PROVEN AT HIS FATHER'S TRIAL.

THE CHILD BEARS NO GUILT.

IHEE...

WHOA ...

BEG YOUR PARDON.

I-IS THAT SO?

*HEH HEH HEH

*FX: GRIND

ギリ

*FX: ROARRR

ゴオオオ

...
...

I EXPECT NO GRATITUDE.

*FX: SWAY

クラ°°

WOULD YOU PERMIT ME TO REST A SPELL?

I DO NOT FEEL WELL.

FORGIVE ME, LADY FARNESE.

I APOLO-GIZE.

SLACK-ER.

VERY WELL.

BUT PERSONAL CARE IS PART OF YOUR DUTY.

EVERY TIME WITH THE STAKE BURNINGS...

WHEW.

NICE ONE BACK THERE.

HEY, HEY.

...AT LEAST, I STILL CANNOT HANDLE.

FLAME...

OH! THAT'S THE GOOD MEMORY YOU'D EXPECT OF A HERALD OF ARMS.

YOU'RE SIR JEROME, I BELIEVE...

NO, I REALLY DON'T FEEL VERY...

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, HAHA.

RIGHT?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?! TAKING A REST, SAME AS YOU. WHO CAN STAND DEALING WITH SUCH A DAMNABLE DUTY?

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

WHA --?

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE REALLY GOT YOUR GOOD POINTS. I TOOK YOU FOR JUST A PALE-FACED WEAKLING.

THAT WAS PERSONAL...

AH, THAT...

FRIEND OF CHILDREN! PRETTY KNIGHTLY OF YOU.

DON'T BE MODEST. I MEAN THAT KID BACK THERE.

I AM THE SAME AS THAT BOY.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AHHH ...

THREE YEARS AGO...

...BEFORE MY OWN EYES.

MY MOTHER WAS ALSO CONDEMNED AS A HERETIC TO BURN AT THE STAKE.

DO NOT LET IT BOTHER YOU. IT IS THE TRUTH.

I MEAN, I...

UHHH, WELL...

.....

SUDDENLY BEHAVING ARISTO-CRATIC DOES NOT BECOME YOU.

IT IS ALL RIGHT, THOUGH.

I SWEAR NEVER TO REVEAL THIS TO ANYONE! YOU HAVE MY FORMAL APOLOGY, SIR HERALD.

I'M SORRY! I'VE A BAD HABIT OF TALKING TOO MUCH WITHOUT THINKING OF OTHERS' FEEL-INGS!

I HEAR THAT A LOT FROM THE LADIES.

HEHEH ...

SERPI-CO.

MY, MY.

AH, YES, AN EX-CHANGE ...

HM... OKAY. I THINK I'LL GO FIND MYSELF A LADY THEN.

I WILL BE RETURNING TO OUR DUTY NOW. THANKS TO YOU I FEEL MUCH BETTER.

YOU CAN KEEP A SE-CRET.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR HERALD THAT...?

YEAH, TAKE CARE.

SEE YOU LATER.

FAIR ENOUGH, BUT TAKE IT EASY.

...BUT THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN HIM.

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST HER TOADY...

HMM ...

HE SAID THREE YEARS AGO...?

IT COULDN'T BE...

HN?

WAIT, THOUGH.

*FX: FSSS

*FX: GTAK GTAK

HUU ...

*FX: GREESH

ビュウウ ウウ。。

*FX: WHRRLLL

WHEN I STARE AT THE FLAMES...

.....

...I REMEMBER...

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS DESCENDING THE STAIRS, AS IF LURED BY THAT SOUND.

ROAR... ROAR...

UNABLE TO BEAR THE DREADFULNESS...

...I OPENED THE DOOR.

THE SOUND WAS DREADFUL...

ROAR... ROAR...

ROAR...

ROAR...

...WAVERING ON THE WALLS OF THE HOUSES.

A CROWD OF COUNTLESS EERIE SHADOWS...

THE STENCH OF BURNING FLESH.

SHOUTS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN CHEERS AND CONDEMNATIONS.

...OF THE SKIN KNOWN AS OUR WORLD FROM SECRETS HIDDEN BY THE NIGHT, THERE SURGES TERROR.

I KNEW THEN, WHEN YOU PEEL BACK A THIN LAYER...

SUDDENLY, SOMEONE HANDED ME A TORCH.

...AND THREW IT RIGHT AWAY.

I WAS FRIGHTENED...

A STRANGE THING HAPPENED.

THE SHADOWS, CORRESPONDING TO THE TORCH I'D THROWN, SWAYED ABOUT ALL AT ONCE.

*UWOMM

I SEE!

I GET IT!

*OHHH

ONE MORE.

...SO MANY TIMES...

I CAST THEM IN...

...THAT NIGHT.

WHEN I THROW IN ONE OF THESE...

EACH TIME, THE SHADOWS SWAYED.

AS IF DANCING.

AS IF TREMBLING.

...THE SHADOWS DANCE BEFORE IT.

I KNEW IT. WHEN YOU PEEL BACK A THIN LAYER OF THE SKIN KNOWN AS OUR WORLD, THERE SURGES TERROR.

IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THAT TERROR...

...YOU LEAD THEM...

...BECOME ONE OF THEM...

...AND DANCE.

CHILD OF GREAT FAITH.

WELL DONE, LITTLE MISS.

THE LORD'S BLESSING UPON THIS GIRL.

A BLESSING.

I COULD FEEL A STRANGE WARMTH IN MY UNDER-BELLY.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE HEAT OF THE FLAMES.

*FX: POCH

HAAH

I'M NOT...

...IN THE WRONG.

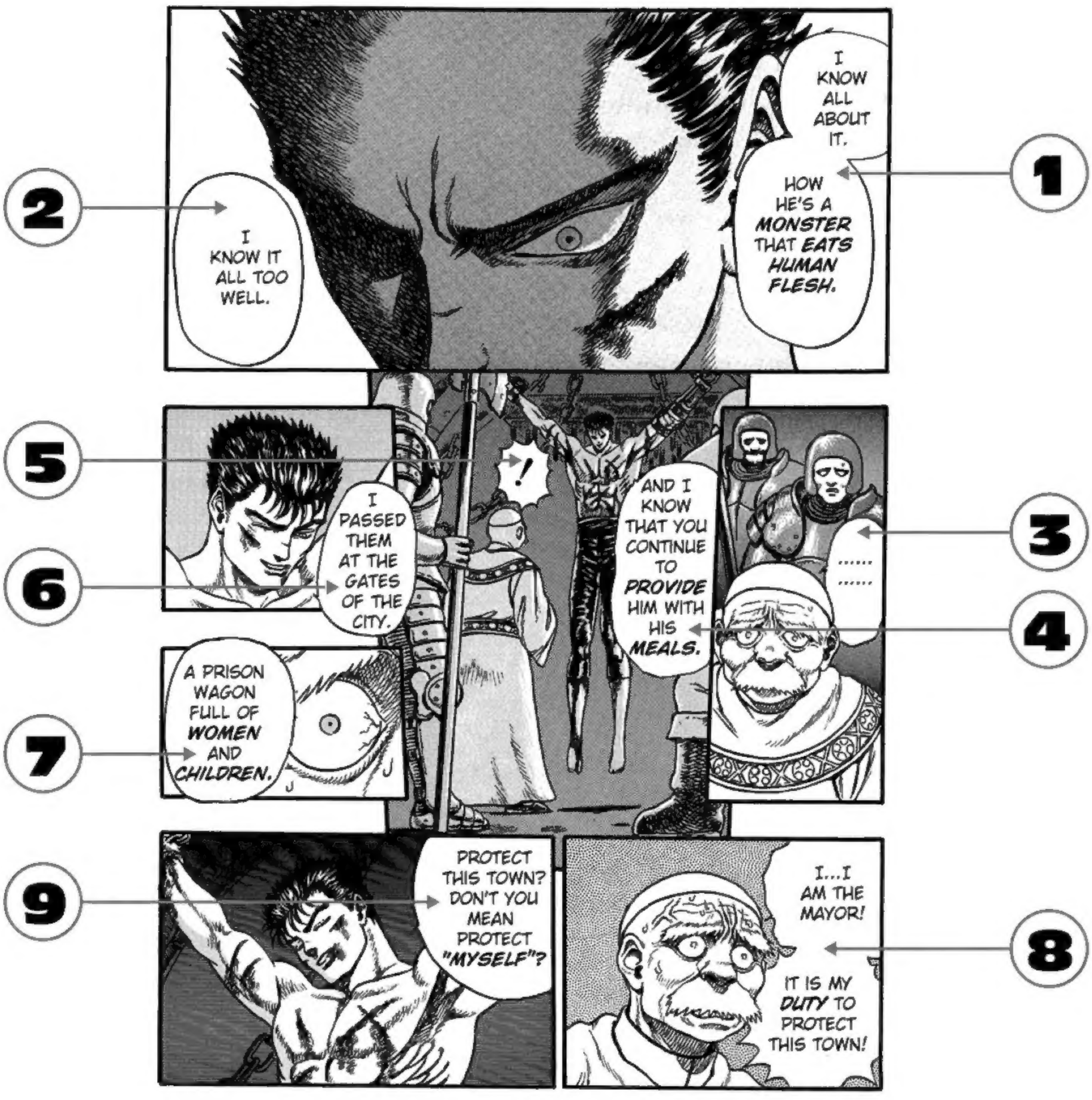
*FX: WHRRRLLLL

ビュウウ・・・ウウ・・・ウ・・ウ・・

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA 18 ベルセルク 三浦建太郎

Hell has broken loose in the kingdom of Midland. On the death of Midland's king comes invasion, demonic forces seem to be on the rise, underground pagan cults are running wild, and the church is busily rounding up and teaching heretics the errors of their ways. While Guts is busy testing out his newly repaired sword on the invaders, his former captain and lover, Casca, her mind wrecked by her unholy tryst with a demon lord, has fallen in with a rough crowd who don't exactly wish her well. But she, like Guts, is now marked with the Brand of Sacrifice, and her abusers may soon find themselves face-to-face with the unholy abominations that are inexorably drawn to the Brand!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is an unstoppable manga avalanche, an overwhelming epic of unbridled action, unsettling horror, and uncivil humor that has crushed both friend and foe alike in its relentless path of destruction. No pain, no gain!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS